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- 800 MHz Multi-Net®II system operating on 39 channels through 125 repeater sites. More than 4,500 subscriber radios.
- Provides two-way radio communications for all WSDOT operations throughout the State of Washington.
- Serves a variety of applications, such as 24-hour incident response units, highway maintenance crews, snowplows, statewide emergency management, traffic management in Seattle and Tacoma, and ferryboat operations on Puget Sound.
- Operates across diverse terrain and conditions: seacoast, rain forest and mountains in the west, semi-arid grasslands and canyons in the east.
- Dispatch consoles in Seattle and Tacoma; other regions use either dispatch consoles or area control stations.





The 24-hour Incident Response units depend on the radio system for reliable communications as they handle all kinds of emergencies.



Grass Mountain is one of 125 WSDOT repeater sites that cover the state. The Washington State Patrol owns the site and shares it with WSDOT.



The WSDOT radio system covers ferryboat operations, where it's invaluable for loading and unloading thousands of cars per day.



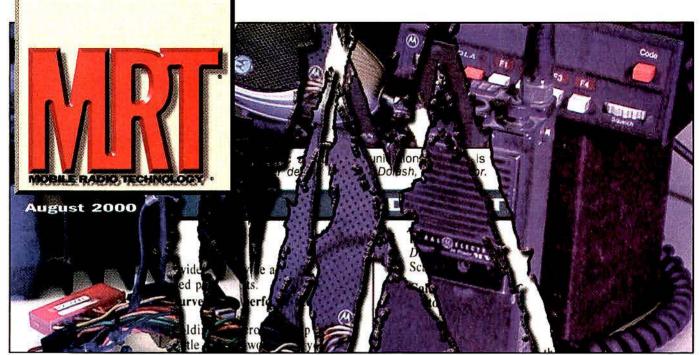
More than 350,000 vehicles travel Seattle freeways each day. The Traffic Systems Management Center (TSMC) communicates with incident response units, tow trucks, traffic engineers, and WSDOT crews to help ensure a smooth traffic flow.

**Multi-Net®ll:** The System of Choice for Public Safety



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On the cover: Michigan's new Project 25-compliant, public safety communications system is close to going online, which means the original system can be sold for scrap. See the story on page 34. Cover design by Scott Dolash, art director.

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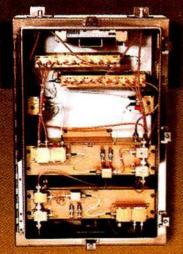
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### **EDITORIAL**

### Scanning ...

A voice for TETRA

Mark A. Hoppe, the interim chairman of the North America TETRA Forum (NATF), heads an organization that was formed to meet the needs of what he described as the growing interest in TETRA digital radio communications technologies among business, industrial, utility and public safety users.

"At the core of NATF is the belief that customers, rather than manufacturers, best understand their particular needs and should have the freedom to choose the technology most suited to their specific situation," Hoppe said.

Since 1997, Hoppe has offered consulting services to the wireless industry, working for St. Paul, MN-based Blue Wing. From 1994 to 1997, he was a systems engineer, product manager and market manager for E. F. Johnson.

NATF wants to clear away any restrictions that may prevent TETRA equipment sales in North America. The TETRA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governs intellectual property rights (IPR). The MoU requires any signatory to make its applicable IPR available to any other signatory. What's stopping TETRA from being offered in North America? Some manufacturers fear litigation.

Motorola, a signatory to the MoU, is taking the view that its IPR would be violated by any organization that might sell TETRA equipment here. In Motorola's opinion, the MoU only applies outside of North America. Although other MoU signatories do not share that view, for now they seem unwilling to risk shipping equipment into North America. Meanwhile, Motorola sells TETRA equipment overseas and could sell it here if it wanted to, because other IPR holders want to cooperate. Motorola believes it should stand in the way, though, saying that its resolve is based on its assessment of desires of its public safety radio users. Skeptics say that Motorola's resolve is based on its dominance of U.S. digital public safety technology and the higher price for that technology compared to the European price for TETRA equipment.

NATF's position is that it wants TETRA to be available as a choice for all users, and not necessarily public safety only.

Motorola has offered its IPR "if and

when" TETRA is adopted as a North American standard—if the American National Standards Institute or the Telecommunications Industry Association adopts it, for example. The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has adopted Tetra as a standard.

In the United States and Canada, many companies sell radio communications equipment that include technologies not part of North American standards, includ-



ing Logic Trunked Radio (LTR), SmartNet, digital channel multicarrier architecture (DCMA) and integrated digital enhanced network (IDEN). It isn't necessarily contrary to users' interests when manufacturers offer equipment without regard to a standard.

Our take on NATF is that it will give prospective TETRA users a venue for demonstrating the extent of their interest in the technology. If enough of Motorola's customers participate in NATF and want TETRA, maybe the company will relent and allow use of its IPR without the hurdle of the standards process.

NATF might just give its user members the voice they need to get the TETRA choice—if they want it.

NATF will sponsor "TETRA 2000 Workshop and P25 Phase II TDMA Update" in Boston on Aug. 18. Information is available at www.tetraforum.org.

### Nextel

At press time, news began emerging about racial and sexual discrimination allegations against Nextel Communications, McLean, VA. Neither Nextel nor Leeds Morelli & Brown (LMB), the law firm representing complainants, returned

our calls, but the Reuters news service has described the allegations and Nextel has posted a statement on its Web site.

The news service reported that as many as 300 employees plan to file complaints.

Jeffrey Brown, a partner at LMB, is quoted as saying that a financial settlement is sought that would exceed the amount paid by Texaco in 1996 to settle a racial bias case. Texaco agreed to pay \$176 million over five years. Brown also said that LMB wants Nextel to commit more than \$2 billion toward diversity programs.

In its statement, Nextel declined to comment on any specific allegations until all the relevant facts are gathered and assessed. "We will conduct a thorough investigation of those allegations once we have received the information we need to do so," the statement reads.

Nextel continues to build its network. Construction costs contributed to company expenses of \$1.5 billion against sales of \$3.3 billion last year.

The action by LMB places a huge question mark on Nextel's financial future. Nextel's wireless telephone network has previously attracted investment and possible acquisition attention from wireline carrier MCI. Since then, WorldCom bought MCI. WorldCom inked a merger deal with Sprint that would bring it Sprint's national PCS wireless telephone network in the bargain. That merger started looking doubtful about the time the discrimination allegations surfaced. While WorldCom might otherwise look anew at Nextel to gain a national U.S. wireless telephone network, it may not want to buy legal troubles of this type.

Now that the Sprint merger has unraveled, WorldCom may turn its attention to European acquisitions and leave the matter of a U.S. wireless network for another time. Nextel's management seems inclined to defend the company against the allegations. Yet, if Nextel suddenly settles and announces a deal to be acquired by WorldCom, the wheel of cash will have spun faster than the wheels of justice can.

Don Bishop

Editorial Director don\_bishop@intertec.com

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### NEXT MONTH-SEPTEMBER 2000

FEATURES: Location technologies; Wireless@Work; inside the FCC's O.E.T.; noise reduction.

PLUS: Robert H. Schwaninger Jr.'s "In the Public Interest"; Harold Kinley's "Technically Speaking"; David Dunford's "Public Safety: '10-2'"; editorial commentary from Don Bishop and Matthew Halverson; Product focus—what's new in antennas for portables.

AND IN THE MONTHS TO COME:

UHF trunking; mobile antennas; installation and maintenance; test shielding; field testing equipment; Buyers' Guide.



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SS-18	15	18	1% x 6 x 9	3.6
SS-25	20	25	2% x 7 x 9%	4.2
SS-30	25	30	3% x 7 x 9%	5.0



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MODEL SRM-30

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HACKINGONI SWI	CHING FOWER SUPPLIES			
MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25	20	25	3% x 19 x 9%	6.5
SRM-30	25	30	3% x 19 x 9%	7.0

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WITH SEPARATE V	OLI & AMP METERS			
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SRM-25	20	25	3½ x 19 x 9%	6.5
SRM-30	25	30	31/2 x 19 x 91/4	7.0



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SRM-30M-2	25	30	3½ x 19 x 9%	11.0



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SS-10TK

SS-12TK OR SS-18TK

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SS-10SM/GTX, SS-12SM/GTX, SS-18SM/GTX

SS-10RA

SS-12RA

SS-18RA

SS-10SMU, SS-12SMU, SS-18SMU

SS-10V, SS-12V, SS-18V

### CALENDAR

### 2000

### August

13-17: Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials—International (APCO) National Conference, Boston. Contact: 904-322-2500 or www.apco2000.org.

### September

18–20: TAP Engineering Seminar, sponsored by Softwright, Holiday Inn Southeast, Aurora, CO. Contact: 303-344-5486.

19-22: Fall Vehicular Technology Conference, sponsored by IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, Scaport Hotel, Boston. Contact: 904-322-2500.

26–29: PCIA GlobalXChange, sponsored by PCIA, McCormick Place, Chicago, Contact: 703-739-0300 or www.pcs00.com.

28-29: SBT Fall Conference, Ritz Carlton Hotel, St. Louis. Contact: 520-836-2025.

### October

4-7: Private Wireless Spectrum Management Conference, sponsored by the Industrial Telecommunications Association, the Council of Independent Communication Suppliers and USMSS, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington. Contact: Ray Wisniewski, 703-797-5123.

15-17: ENTELEC & UTC Joint 2000 Fall Seminar, sposored by ENTELEC and UTC, Houston. Contact: 888-503-8700 or email entelec@pdq.net.

23–25: AMTEX, sponsored by the American Mobile Telecommunications Association, Embassy Suites Outdoor World, Dallas. Contact: 202-331-7773 or www.amtausa.org.

29-Nov.1:Tower Summit, sponsored by Shorecliff Communications, The Paris Hotel, Las Vegas. Contact:888-662-6021.

### November

5–7: Utilities Telecom Summit, sponsored by UTC, the United Telecom Council, Sheraton Bel Harbour, Miami Beach, FL. Contact: 202-872-0030 or www.utc.org.

12-15: Telecommunications Resellers Association Fall Conference and Exhibition, sponsored by TRA, Anaheim, CA. Contact: 202-835-9898 or www.tra.org.

15-18: Communications Marketing Conference, sponsored by the Communications Marketing Association, Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta. Contact: 404-892-2600, ext. 300 or www.commktga.com.

17: Radio Club of America Communications Symposium, 92nd Anniversary Dinner and Awards Presentation, New York Athletic Club, New York, Contact: Gerri Hopkins, 732-842-5070.

### 2001

### January

6-9: International CES, sponsored by the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers' Association; Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas Hilton, Riviera Hotel and Alexis Park Hotel, Las Vegas. Contact: www.CESweb.org.

### February

20-23: NATE, sponsored by the National Association of Tower Erectors, Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, Contact: 888-882-5865 or www.natehome.com.

### March

20–22: Wireless, sponsored by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, Las Vegas. Contact: 202-785-2842 or www.wow-com.com.

### 28-30: International Wireless Communications

Expo, sponsored by *Mobile Radio Technology*, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. Contact: Web site www.iwceconexpo.com.

### April

1-4: ENTELEC, sponsored by ENTELEC, New Orleans. Contact: 281-357-8700 or Web site www.entelec.org.

### May

21-24: Telecommunications Resellers Association Spring Conference and Exhibition, sponsored by TRA, Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas. Contact: Web site www.tra.org.

### June

3-7: Supercomm, sponsored by TIA and USTA, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta. Contact: 800-278-7372.

24–27: UTC Telecom, sponsored by UTC, The United Telecom Council, Midwest Express, Milwaukee. Contact: 202-857-1881 or www.utc.org. 24–28: NENA, sponsored by the National Emergency Number Association, Orlando, FL. Contact: Web site www.nena9-1-1.org.

### November

6–8: Canadian Wireless, sponsored by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto. Contact: 613-233-4888, ext. 102, or www.cwta.ca.

### August

5-9: Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials—International (APCO) National Conference, Salt Lake City. Contact: 904-322-2500 or www.apco-intl.org.

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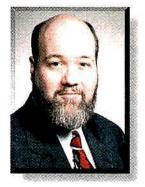
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### **EDITORIAL FORUM**



### Fashion statement: Lose the weight

In June the *Boston Globe* extolled how clothing designers' fall lines will be replete not only with pleats but with a plethora of pockets. These pockets will be tailored for assorted personal wireless devices: pagers, cellphones, radios, PDAs and portable CD players. Rather than disguising this electronic armory, the fashions will make the pouch the focal point. Some garments will even connect to the devices and glow or strobe—sort of a wearable GUI, announcing an incoming page, call or email. (*Not* in the theaters, *please*.)

I remember a similar fashion forecast in 1970. Life magazine commissioned fashion guru Rudi Gernreich (Remember the topless swimsuit?) to forecast '70s wardrobes. Gernreich's unisex look seems hopelessly silly now, but some of his predictions were dead-on, such as pastel hair, vanity colored contact lenses and "a combination wristwatch, weather indicator, compass and radio" incorporated into a wristband. (And not a cell site in sight, yet.)

For decades, the wearing of a tie to work or meetings signaled status, rank or importance within the organization. Women were left to their own devices, but now *electronic* devices make business a little more egalitarian. The visibility or flourishing of a cellphone has arguably replaced the suit-and-tie as a token of how important you are (or think you are). It says that you must be available "24-7" because of what you know or what indispensable service you provide.

Another recent fashion article is a bit more martial: Popular Science's July cover story on the well-dressed foot soldier of 2025. Besides body armor and wrist-mounted weapons pods, the prototype includes a full-face helmet with voice and data communications, night vision, 360° sensors, heads-up displays and video screened on the faceshield. Iron Man never had it this good.

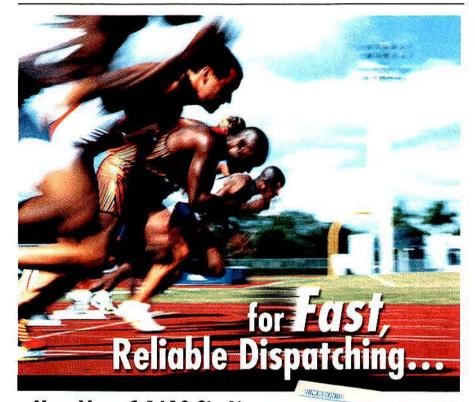
Whether or not the army gets this gladiatorial gladrag, it would be great for cops. It would eliminate the dead weight and motion restraint associated with the utility-belt gizmos officers must carry: multiple handcuff sets, firearms, ammunition, a flashlight, a baton, keys, pepper spray and-lest we forget our side of the street—a portable radio, an epaulet mic, a wireless body mic and remote controls for audio, video and lightbar equipment on the patrol cruiser. Batman makes it look easy, but it takes a robust officer to run down a dark alley packing all that stuff. So, while we wait for clothing and uniform designers to trot out new wares, priorities in our industry should be miniaturization, weight reduction for portables and batteries, affordable ear-mics and vox controls. While we're waiting for the millennium monkey suits, let's get the monkey off the officer's back.

on the officer's back.

—D. A. Keckler

Technical Editor

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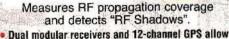




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### IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

### Zero to 700 and back

By Robert H. Schwaninger Jr.

Everyone is excited about the availability of 700MHz channels. The band made available by the relocation of TV channels 60–69 is causing a great buzz throughout the industry as land mobile guys rub their collective hands together.

But before the drool begins to pool, let's examine what conditions the FCC has created for the future use of this spectrum.

The present occupants of the band are TV broadcasters. For all of you who are unschooled in the way of politics, "TV broadcaster" is Washingtonian-speak for "sacred cow." So there won't be anyone moo-ving from those channels for a while. The votes simply aren't in Congress or within the FCC to make it happen.

Okay-one vote in Congress did get this migration moving. U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) was instrumental in establishing that broadcasters do not always walk on water, that the sun does not, in fact, rise and set only upon those persons who transmit Laverne and Shirley, and that sometimes, in a strange and wonderful world, the American public might indeed be served by telling the broadcasters to shut up.

It was this revelation regarding emperors and their transparent togs that caused the broadcasters to lose this band in the first

place. Sen. McCain and other key congressional types thought that the spectrum could be better used for land mobile purposes—public safety, in particular. So, they took it away from the WB network wannabes and gave it to the fire and police and

Schwaninger, MRT's regulatory consultant, is the principal in the law firm of Schwaninger & Associates, Washington, which is counsel to Small Business in Telecommunications. Schwaninger is also a member of the Radio Club of America.

other public servants throughout the country. Or did they?

Oh sure, there was a clarion call and a "Huzzah!" as all gathered to see the transfer of power from broadcaster to burgomaster, but did that ceremony really mark the passing of *title*?

No.

It was mainly "show" and no "go."



Illustration by John Hayes

The broadcasters will leave the band, of course, but not until the year 2006 or until someone crosses their outstretched palms with millions in payola.

Now that's a public interest issue

The land mobile folks ran back to the FCC and asked the commission to create relocation rules to ease the recalcitrant broadcasters off the band prior to 2006 (or whenever). But the FCC is siding with the broadcasters on this one.

The commission said, in effect, the broadcasters can stay because the *public interest* would not be served by a forced relocation of the UPN folks onto alternative spectrum.

To put this into perspective, let's look over the FCC's relocation record:

☐ When PCS came to market, the FCC decided that the public interest would be served by forced relocation of public safety licensees from the 2GHz micro-

wave channels. That was OK because PCS had a superior right—a right that had been bought and paid for with billions of bucks to the U.S. Treasury. And besides, there was some nifty spectrum at 5.6GHz where the P.S. systems could go.

APCO didn't think that the FCC had done right by its members, and it appealed the FCC's relocation decision. The Court said, "Forget it APCO. If the FCC's got spectrum for your members to move onto, and PCS is willing to pay the freight, off you go." So, public safety was given a "Trail of Tears" to 5.6GHz, and PCS got the band.

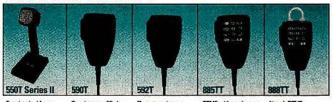
☐ The next relocation decision came at 800MHz, with the consolidation of the SMR marketplace Nextel Communications. (There continues to be a case pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals brought by Small Business in Telecommunications regarding the upper-800MHz auction.) At the time, the FCC decided that it was more important for it and Nextel to violate the letter and spirit of 100 years of

antitrust legislation by forcing relocation than to allow local operators quiet enjoyment of their licensed systems. Oh yes, and the local operators' end users could also go to the devil. After all, it was in the *public interest*.

Now the FCC is "considering the public interest" by allowing broadcasters to hold up the same wheels of progress that rolled over local SMR operators. The FCC must consider whether the public needs the integrated use of

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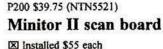












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telecommunications at 700MHz by fire, local government, police, road maintenance, transportation departments, county, state and city licensees. Or whether, on balance, the public would be better served by being able to see reruns of Welcome Back, Kotter before and after the WWF Smackdown.

Is the public better served by the use of 700MHz for local government, fire, police ... licensees, or by being able to see reruns of Welcome Back. Kotter?

Guess what? Smackdown's got the power and the FCC is telling public safety and guardband managers to be patient-real patient. It's only five years, after all. And the broadcasters were there first, and the land mobile guys are going to get to use the spectrum for a long, long time, and ....

### What's good for the goose ...

Now, for all of you who have not been paying attention, let's recap what we have learned about the FCC's relocation

- ➤ Rule No. 1 If you pay for the spectrum, the FCC is more likely to give eviction notices to the incumbent operators.
- ➤ Rule No. 2 If the incumbents are local operators or small municipalities, these incumbents are more likely to be tossed out than bigger companies.
- ► Rule No. 3 Public safety is not the same as public interest because public safety doesn't have to pay for spectrum.
- ► Rule No. 4 If relocation will cause the band to be held in the hands of fewer licensees, the FCC is more likely to allow forced relocation.
- ► Rule No. 5 If a broadcaster has it, we ain't takin' it away from them unless it's by gunpoint-and even then we need a large caliber.

Based on these simple rules, you can guess what the FCC will do the next time someone asks about relocation. Oh, go ahead-make your prediction. Amaze and delight friends at cocktail parties with your relocation acumen. Win a relocation pool in your office. The uses are endless for the guy or gal who has learned that when it comes to the federal government, think jaded ... jade ... green ... the color of money. Ahhhh.

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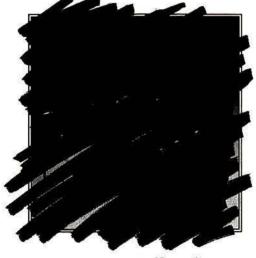
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### APCO: No guilt by this association

### By David O. Dunford

As introduced in an earlier column, Steve Davidson is the 9-1-1 center manager for the Lenexa, KS, Police Department. Steve isn't widely known by his first name, but readily answers to his moniker "Grumpy." Yes, that's right, the name fits the perceived behavior. But more importantly, Steve has a great coffee cup. Actually, it's just a regular coffee cup with a great saying inscribed on the side: "Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion." It seems like such a waste for "Grump" to proffer this opinion via a java jug when an opinionated curmudgeon, such as myself, could put it to real use.

Because August is the month for the APCO-International Conference and Exposition (and meeting, assembly, gathering, liars' contest, hoedown, and general bull session) in Boston, I'd like to offer my opinions about that esteemed outfit which, for years, has acted to shepherd along the interests of public safety communications.

In 1975, our local chapter asked a local fire chief to speak at one of the Kansas state APCO meetings. His one-hour presentation dealt with safety issues and hazards recently encountered in fighting petroleum fires. Apparently he thought our group was the "APCO" gasoline station franchise owners' meeting. It was only after he concluded his detailed, thoughtful and reflective speech that this gentleman mainstay of local public safety life was introduced to the "other" APCO. Likewise, while our state chapter has always had solid membership and good attendance at its two semi-annual meetings, we have regularly encountered the belief amongst Kansas sheriffs and local chiefs of police that APCO stands for Alcohol Program for Communications Officers (Well, at least in Kansas, that was the popular belief).

Unknown by most people, APCO has played a significant role in the evolution and deployment of communications systems in the public safety marketplace for system administrators and Radiomen alike. After all, this outfit originated in an era when "dispatchers" (now called communications specialists, telecommunicators or even system

status controllers) were necessarily technical types because these were the only people who had the knowledge and skill to actually operate the radio equipment. (Note: Does the introduction of CB radios indicate technical evolution, or devolution?) Partly because of its



members' technical expertise, APCO acted as the official "designated entity" to represent law enforcement and local government in matters before the FCC, and until fairly recently, APCO focused its annual conferences on technical subject matter aimed squarely at Radioman.

But, like the technology it helps develop, APCO has undergone major organizational changes in recent years. Adoption of suffrage for operator members (see: dispatchers, above) was nearly heretical, but long overdue. After all, operator members and center managers were suddenly charged with integrating a variety of information-and-data systems and the radio system into a modern communications center. (In some places, the "radio room" is now the dark closet that is the sole province of Radioman).

Even though I'm constantly skeptical, APCO has been successful in holding membership attention and focus on everevolving topical issues. Wisely (and in response to demand by now-voting operator members), APCO has focuses extensively on non-radio technical topics and administrative subjects.

Now, for a more specific and practical example of what's "good" about the APCO organization: my friend Floyd Duell. Now retired, Floyd built and ran the radio system for the state of Kansas. He didn't actually build it all, but his fingerprints are on a good share of the pieces. Fondly referred to as "the little round man from the DOT," Floyd provided solid advice and plenty of assistance and encouragement to anyone needing help starting a public safety radio system in Kansas. Because Floyd volunteered as the Kansas frequency coordinator beginning in the early 1970s, he was called on by numerous local entities. From the carefree days of one-way commercial broadcast (no pesky station receivers to keep aligned), through the development of a migration plan to modern 800MHz trunking, Floyd was an APCO institutional resource. When considering an organization (typically as a faceless, faraway and nebulous collection of fancy suits), we seldom think of an individual. But Floyd constantly proffered the benefits of the organization to willing listeners and would regularly volunteer his time and advice to the local chapter. Nary a chapter meeting was held without Floyd's update on FCC proceedings.

The moral of this short primer is that in our jobs as communications center managers and system administrators—affiliating with a representative trade organization—can be more than just joining a club. In the case of APCO, we can have both organized national representation and practical, local support.

Oh, the letters really stand for Association of Public safety Communications Officials.

Dunford, MRT's public safety consultant, is manager of technical services for the Lenexa, KS, police department. He is a member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International. [His email address is ddunford@ci.lenexa.ks.us.]

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### TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

### **Antenna-testing methods**

### By Harold Kinley

Generally speaking, land mobile radio technicians favor forward and reflected power measurements to determine the operating condition or tuning of an antenna. During the installation of a mobile radio antenna, a wattmeter is inserted into the transmission line near the transceiver. The transmitter is keyed, and the forward power is measured. Next, the wattmeter is set to measure reflected power, either by turning the "slug" in the reverse direction or by turning a switch to the "reflected power" position. The less the reflected power (relative to the forward power), the better the antenna match. This method is straightforward and works well. However, there are times when other techniques can aid the technician in checking or tuning the antenna.

### Trimming the whip

When a new antenna is installed on a vehicle, it must be tuned at the frequency of the radio to perform properly. Too much reflected power will cause the "foldback" circuit to reduce the transmitter power to protect the final stage from excessive reflected power. Thus, it is essential that the antenna be "tuned" so that it presents a  $50\Omega$  load as seen by the transmitter.

The directional wattmeter is used, as previously described, to tune the antenna, while the whip is trimmed, until the reflected power is at a minimum (or low, compared to the forward power). Usually, the process is simple. However, confusion can sometimes arise over whether the antenna rod is already too

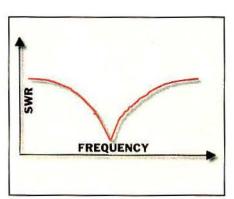


Figure 1. Plot of frequency vs. SWR.

short or it needs further trimming. Remember, you can't "put it back" if it is cut too short. So, the question becomes: "To cut or not to cut?" If you cut it too short, you have to start over with a new antenna rod, wasting time and money. There are ways around this problem, however.

### Multifrequency radios

If the radio being used is a multifrequency radio, then the high and low frequencies can be used to tell whether the antenna is too long or too shortprovided that the frequency separation between the highest and lowest frequency is sufficient. Simply set the radio to the lowest frequency and check the SWR or percent reflected power. Then, do the same at the highest frequency. If the SWR or the equivalent percent reflected power is better on the high frequency, then the antenna is too short. If the SWR or equivalent percent reflected power is better at the lower frequency, then the antenna is too long. The antenna rod should be cut so that the best SWR is seen at the mid-frequency range, with about the same rise in SWR at the lowest and highest frequencies. See Figure 1 below. Table 1 below shows SWR vs. percent reflected power. If the antenna is a wideband type, then the measurements at the low and high end of the frequency range may not be sufficiently different to indicate whether the antenna rod is too long or too short.

### The tuning wand

A tuning wand can be made by wrapping three to four inches of aluminum foil around the end of a wooden dowel and then securing the foil with electri-

SWR	REFLECTED POWER (%)
1.22	1
1.33	2
1.42	3
1.5	4
1.58	5
1.92	10
2.26	15
2.62	EDEOUE 20.
3	25

Table 1. SWR vs. reflected power (%).



Photo 1. An MFJ model 259B SWR analyzer.



Photo 2. Inputs for the above SWR analyzer.

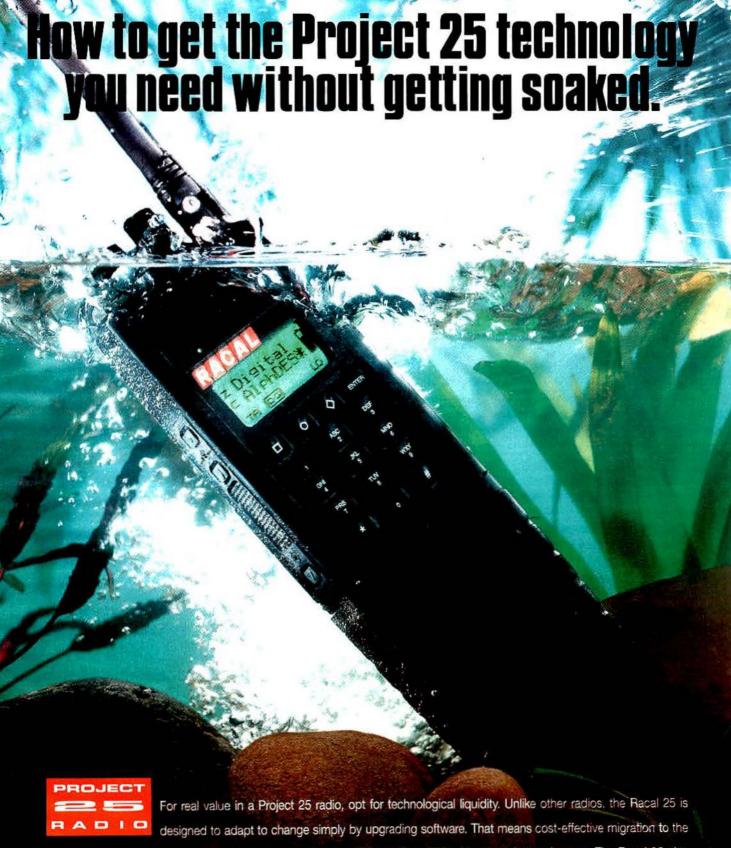
cal tape. Then test the antenna by moving the wrapped end of the dowel up the antenna rod while observing the reflected power on the wattmeter, as shown in Figure 2 on page 20. If the reflected power increases as the tuning wand approaches the tip of the rod, then the rod is too long. If the reflected power decreases as the tuning wand approaches the tip of the rod, then the rod is too short.

### The MFJ SWR analyzer

The MFJ model 259B SWR analyzer (Photos 1 and 2, above) is popular

Contributing Editor Kinley, MRT's technical consultant and a certified electronics technician, is regional communications manager, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Spartanburg, SC. He is the author of Standard Radio Communications Manual, with Instrumentation and Testing Techniques, which is available for direct purchase. Write to 204 Tanglewylde Drive. Spartanburg, SC 29301.

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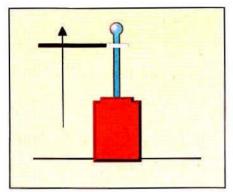


Figure 2. In many cases, the 'tuning wand' can be used to determine if the antenna rod is too long or too short.

among radio amateurs. However, the usefulness of this device is not limited to ham radio use. The analyzer is simple to use, inexpensive and portable, and it has a self-contained signal generator for finding the resonant frequency of antennas and other frequency-sensitive devices or circuits. Hook the coax line to the analyzer and tune the frequency of the analyzer to produce the lowest SWR indication. This indicates the resonant frequency of the antenna. You can also check the bandwidth of the antenna by adjusting the frequency until the SWR indicates "2:1" on the upper and lower side of the resonant frequency. Note the

frequencies at which the SWR is 2:1. This is the 2:1 SWR bandwidth of the antenna. Analyzer models are available that handle VHF highband as well as UHF land mobile frequencies.

Photo 3 at the right shows the analyzer locating the resonant frequency of an antenna. As shown, the resonant frequency is 151.34MHz. The SWR at this frequency is 1:1, as shown on the lower left meter. Photo 4 on page 22 shows the frequency ranges available on the model 259B.

### Return-loss bridge

The return-loss bridge is also useful for determining the resonant frequency of an antenna or other frequencysensitive devices, Figure 3 on page 22 shows the setup for using a return-loss bridge. Here, a tracking generator is used with a spectrum analyzer to display the response of frequency vs. return loss of the device (the antenna) under test (DUT). First, the reference is established by shorting, or leaving open, the port where the DUT is connected. If the output of the tracking generator is set to 0dBm, then the reference should reach almost to the 0dBm mark on the display. Then, the antenna is connected and the tracking generator is set to sweep the



Photo 3. Resonant-frequency readout.

proper frequency range to be checked. The response curve of the return loss will look like the one shown in Photo 5 on page 24. The resonant frequency will be the *lowest* point on the curve (the point where the return loss is the greatest). Although this method is quite accurate, it is seldom used to check mobile antennas because of the required equipment.

### The time-domain reflectometer

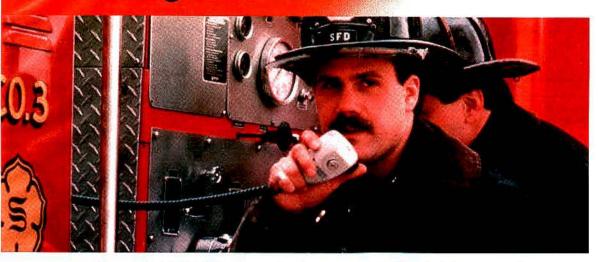
The time-domain reflectometer (TDR) is used to determine where a fault lies along a transmission line. It can also be used to determine the length of a transmission line. Figure 4 on page 22 shows how the TDR is connected and used with an oscilloscope to check a



CIRCLE (21) ON FAST FACT CARD

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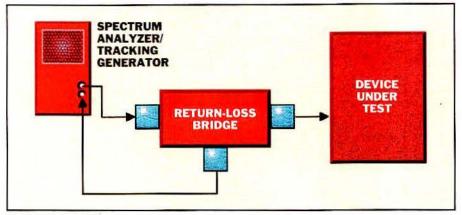


Figure 3. This setup is used to check the resonance or response of a frequency-sensitive circuit, such as an antenna or a filter.

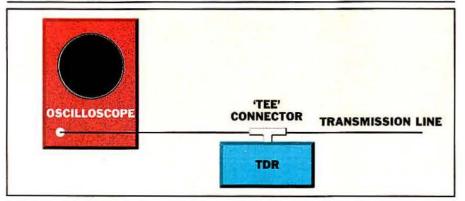
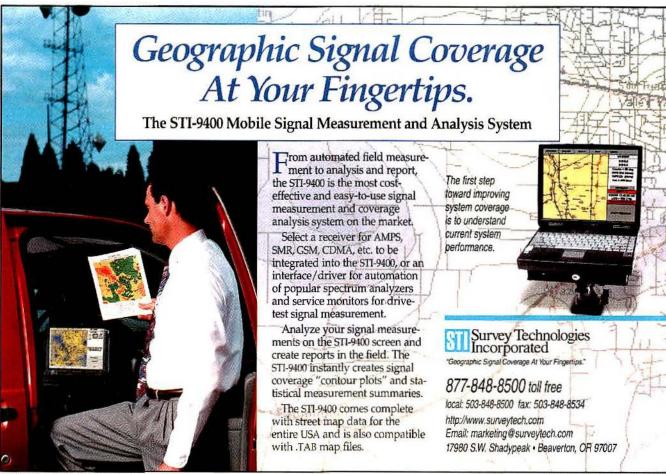


Figure 4. This setup is used to determine the location of faults or the length of the transmission line.

transmission line. Photo 6 on page 24 shows the oscilloscope waveform produced by a TDR connected as shown in Figure 4. The initial, or incident, pulse is shown to the left on the display. The horizontal timebase is set to 0.1 us per division. The transmission line being tested has a velocity factor of 0.66, or 66%. This means that a wave traveling on the transmission line will travel at only 66% of the velocity it would travel in free space. The free-space velocity of a radio wave, in meters, is 300,000,000mps. Thus, the velocity of a wave on this cable will be  $0.66 \times 300,000,000$ , or 198,000,000mps. Note that on the oscilloscope display, the return pulse is delayed by two divisions, or 0.2 µs, from



Photo 4. Available frequency ranges (259B).



CIRCLE (23) ON FAST FACT CARE

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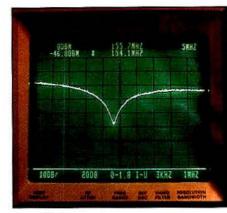


Photo 5. A return-loss response curve.



Photo 6. A TDR oscilloscope waveform.

the incident pulse. In  $0.2\mu$ s, the wave will travel  $0.0000002 \times 198,000,000$ , or 39.6m. This equals  $39.6 \times 3.2808$ , or 129.92, feet. Thus, the wave has traveled 129.92 feet between the times of the *incident* pulse and the *reflected* pulse on the oscilloscope. To obtain the length of the transmission line, you must *halve* this figure because it represents the time during which the pulse travels up *and* back down the line. So, the length of the transmission line is  $129.92 \div 2$ , or about 65 feet.

# Halve the pulse time because it represents the time during which the pulse travels up and back down the line.

Each of the test and measurement procedures presented here has its appropriate use. You may not need to use some of these procedures or setups every day, but don't overlook some of these alternate methods of doing things when the need arises. We tend to get used to doing things the same old way and to resist changes in our methods and techniques. Some of these techniques can be quite revealing and interesting.

Until next time—stay tuned!

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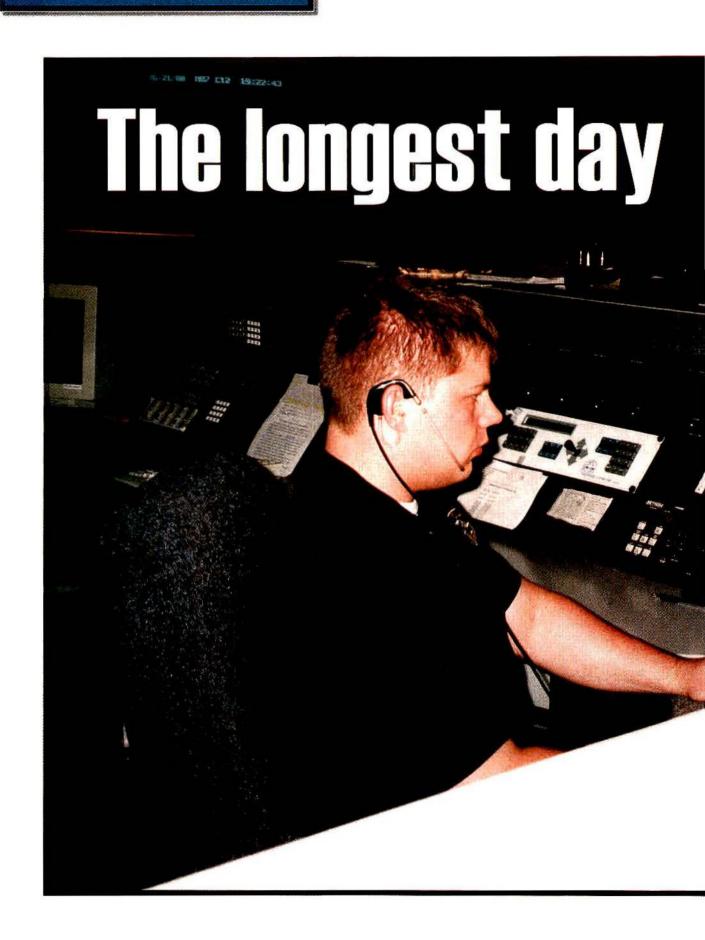
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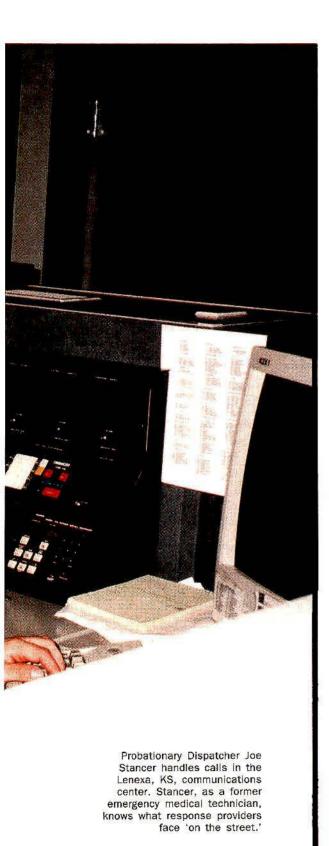
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A case study of how public safety dispatchers and patrol officers interact with mobile radio communications and how they depend on it 'to protect and serve.'

### By Nikki Chandler and D. A. Keckler



um-da-dum-dum. This is the city—Lenexa, KS. [Sorry, we've always wanted to do that.] It is shortly before 3 p.m. on a warm June afternoon. In fact, it's June 21—summer solstice: "The longest day of the year." Through the good graces of MRT's public safety consultant, David O. Dunford, who manages the technical support for the Lenexa

Police, and Steve Davidson, communications unit manager, who runs the show, *MRT* has been invited to observe a typical day in police communications. Reporting will take place simultaneously from the points of view of the 9-1-1 PSAP/ dispatch operators and from those of the officers on patrol.

Our aim is not to present an episode of *COPS*, full of car chases and busts, to *MRT* readers. Real police work is often tedious and grinding, and we're here to examine how real human beings interface with almost 70 years of radio technology advancements.

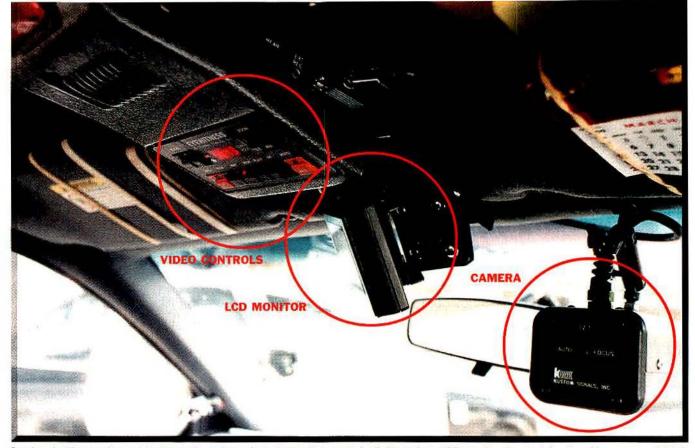
Lenexa is a predominantly suburban community with a resident population of about 40,000 and a daytime population about triple that figure. Located about 15 minutes southwest of downtown Kansas City, MO, it serves both as a bedroom community and a host to numerous professional offices, merchants, warehouses and light manufacturing. It is a progressive city, rapidly growing as population has migrated out of the urban core. For a city of its size, Lenexa has invested heavily, in police/fire/EMS services and infrastructure.

We arrive at the Lenexa Police Department just as the third watch is beginning. Dispatch and patrol generally take their pre-shift briefings together so that both ends of the radio link are "on the same page." Ushered through the security doors, we are quickly split up to our appointed tasks. Chandler will work at first with Dispatcher trainer Virgel Stigall, and Keckler will ride along with Officer Michael Bussell.

[To make this simultaneous report easier to follow, Chandler's PSAP/dispatch experience is printed in red. Keckler's experience with the patrol units appears in blue.]

My first assignment in the Lenexa Communications Center is to join Virgel Stigall at his station. His role for the first part of the shift is primarily dispatching. Stigall has been with the communications center for 15 years. "I started doing this when I was 20. This is my first real job," he says. Stigall,

Chandler is senior associate editor and Keckler is technical editor. They can be contacted at mrt@intertec.com. An expanded version of this story can be viewed on the MRT Web site at www.mrtmag.com.



Overhead video equipment in Lenexa's cruisers includes taping controls (left) and an LCD monitor (center) for the video camera (right).

slender and young, but authoritative, speaks in a quiet voice. "We just changed shifts, so I'm really in a 'state' of confusion. I haven't had a chance to get out of that 'state.'" From what I can see, however, he has everything under control.

As I grow accustomed to what I am listening to and looking at, a call comes in for Stigall to dispatch—a diabetic is having problems, but it's not urgent.

At any given time, three specialists staff the communications center, one taking the role of call-taker, one on dispatch and one on records management and backup. (Employees are crosstrained and can perform any function at any time). Joe Stancer, a former EMT, takes calls right now, while Kelly Lafary is on "Channel 2."

Stigall explains that Lenexa police do not go on many ambulance calls—just the urgent ones—so an officer will not be going on the diabetic call. Each medical emergency call is routed from the Lenexa Communications Center, a primary PSAP, to the county communications center, a secondary PSAP.

"It's kind of interesting for them when their 9-1-1 rings," Stigall says. "That usually means they are going on a call. We get a lot of 9-1-1 calls where we really won't go on a call."

Right now, I am looking at Stigall's main screen. The CAD system that

Lenexa uses operates on the Alert computer system, which also runs other inquiries such as L-tests and N-tests. The ALERT system comprises several large databases running on an IBM mainframe computer. This CAD system was originally designed for the Kansas City, MO, police department. "It's a homemade CAD program," Davidson says, "Roll-your-own. Custom-written, we share it with four other departments."

The black boxes located to the left of this CAD screen are an Orbacom TDM-150 console, atop a Zetron model 21D instant call recorder. Eight speakers line the top of the console, the portals to 30 radios and monitors. To the right of the main CAD screen is a smaller monitor displaying a touch-screen version of the Orbacom console, which accesses the scanning of area police, fire and public works agencies. To the dispatcher's left, an ALI/ANI screen is situated above the phone-line buttons.

Lenexa's communications center answers four 9-1-1 lines, eight administrative lines and five seven-digit lines (what used to be the emergency numbers before 9-1-1). Direct lines connect with other police and civic departments.

After I sign a liability waiver and undergo a quick background check. Bussell and I load ourselves into a black-and-white cruiser outside the police garage. First comes a quick

synopsis of the rules for "ride-alongs" (in official terminology, "gratuitous passengers") and an equipment review, including the shotgun and the MP-5 submachine gun. It is sobering that you might become an officer's support in an extraordinary situation. The electronic equipment is a little more familiar to me, though no less intimidating. (See box on page 29, opposite.)

The ergonomics of driving a car and operating this electronic arsenal seem to work surprisingly well for the officer behind the wheel, but there is not much room left for portly "gratuitous passengers" on the right-hand side. No matter; Lenexa's officers usually patrol alone. Consequently, backup often appears without being requested.

Oddly enough, despite all the technology and accessories. I discover during the day that the most indispensable items inside a police cruiser are strategically placed Velero strips and ½" rubber bands around the sun visors, which hold the miscellaneous "desktop" items and paperwork that an officer handles during his shift in this mobile "office."

Bussell is usually in the Directed Patrol Unit (DPU) and spends much of his time working "plainclothes" in an unmarked car. The six-person DPU proactively focuses on crime within a narrow commercial corridor. "The thing I like to get the most is drugs," Bussell says.

For plainclothes assignments, undercover officers have started using Nextel Communications handsets instead of standard police radios, to avoid attracting attention. [See Dunford's "Public Safety: '10-2'" column in the February 2000 MRT.]

Bussell and several other officers have been preoccupied for four months with a multijurisdiction serial murder case that hit the national spotlight. With that investigation winding down, this is his second day to "relax" as a uniformed officer roaming the community.

"I'm having fun, just going out and working patrol," Bussell says. A tall, brawny, mustachioed 30-year-old, he strikes an imposing figure that is only slightly softened by his summer uniform of white shirt and blue shorts, for which he takes some good-natured ribbing from officers who are still wearing navy blue, full-trouser uniforms.

In addition to the mobile radio and body mic, most officers carry a belt-clipped Motorola HT-1000, or HT600/P200, portable with epaulet mic. All personnel also carry alphanumeric pagers. Radio checks are performed for all systems. Officers can usually hear, sitting in roll call, how well the active mobile radios are performing for the previous shift.

"But I'll give my 'starting' just to make sure, and right then [dispatch] will tell me, 'Yeah, you're pretty 10-1 (bad communications),' and I'll put this down and grab another," Bussell says. His checks extend to sirens, lightbar and other equipment.

A call is passed over from Stancer for dispatch. A vehicle has hit a bank kiosk, and there is quite a bit of damage. This call didn't come through 9-1-1; the bank has called the department directly.

1515: We roll out as patrol unit "394." As soon as we hit the street, we get our first call.

"394"

"394: Santa Fe and Rosehill."

"Take information on a non-injury accident; occurred at the credit union [location]. Contact [manager] in the lobby. Customer hit a piece of their equipment outside and then drove home. They know who the party is."

Bussell acknowledges.

Dispatch time-checks the call: "1520."

We get acquainted as we drive to the credit union. Bussell has spent two years with Lenexa P.D. He had been an engineer with the Lenexa Public Works department for four years when he decided he wanted to go into policing. With the city's roster full, he found a position for two years in a nearby city until Lenexa had an opening.

We pull into the credit union bank, and after a quick "just the facts" interview, the manager shows us the hit-andrun "victim." A depositor snagged his pickup truck on one of the drive-through lane pneumatic kiosks, and after being unable to extricate himself, gunned the motor and ripped the device's cowling to shreds. Undoubtedly scared and embarrassed, he drove off (probably remembering too late that he had just made a transaction with his name on it). The damage is estimated at about \$1,500. I notice that Bussell is taking the incident information in the same low-tech fashion that I am: a pen and a small reporter's notebook from his shirt pocket. When he's finished, I ask whether any hand-held devices are used.

"If it was a big case, say it was a burglary of several items, I would go ahead and take this in," he says, motioning toward the MCT laptop. "I would take the information down that way, serial numbers and such. For me, it has to be a pretty substantial case. I can usually just 'jot it down' on the non-consequential calls. Some of the guys carry around [Palm Pilot PDAs]. I don't know if they're on a trial basis, but the guys that have them really seem to like them."

Dispatch supplies Bussell with a directory check on the phone number of the suspect in the "crunch-and-run," and supplies other database info as well regarding prior arrests. Bussell uses the in-vehicle Nokia PCS cellphone to contact the suspect, asking him to go to the station and give a statement.

### Tag-you're it

Back at dispatch. Lafary offers brownies to everyone who walks into the center. A sergeant walks in, asking for printouts of vehicle tags he had run earlier. He also needs the "criss-cross" city directory.

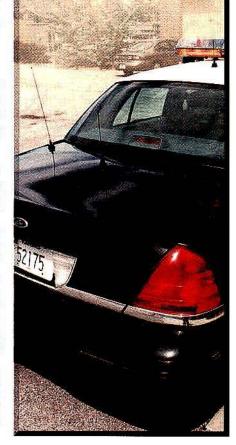
Stigall runs tags for another officer in the field. The officer is following a car, and Stigall reads the registration to the officer.

"What we do, if we have time, is we'll check the name and the address on the registration to see if we can find any active warrants on these people, associated with the tag," Stigall says. "No news is good news. Because I didn't find anything, I didn't say anything back to him. If I were to have found something, I would have called him on the radio again."

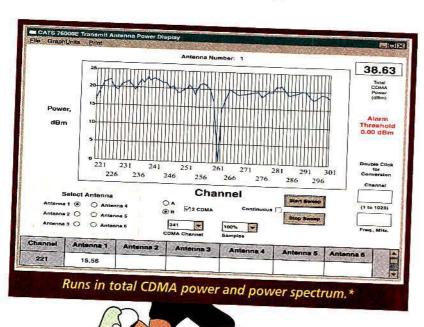
These dispatchers are, indeed, doing more than answering calls and dispatching officers. They are always running tags and fishing for more information to

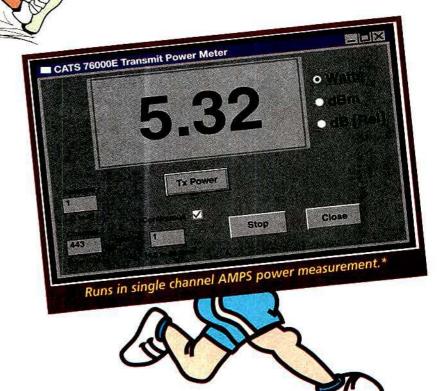
### Electronic arsenal

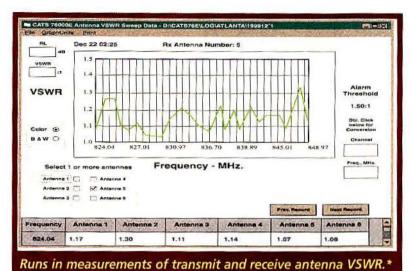
Standard apparatus for each Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser in Lenexa's motor pool (officers do not have dedicated vehicles) includes a Motorola MaxTrac UHF radio, with dash mic and floor-mounted speaker, and a overheadmounted Kustom Signals Eyewitness incar camera and in-car microphone (also linked to a remote body mic on the officer's person). The camera has a 3" Citizen LCD monitor so an officer can preview the camera's range, magnification and focus before exiting the vehicle. The body mic/recording system can also be set to start whenever the lightbar is activated. Other equipment includes a Uniden Bearcat scanner, a Dell Inspiron 7000 MCT on a telescoping pedestal, a turn-signal-mount switch to activate the siren and lightbar (plus overhead controls for the same), a Nokia PCS cellphone to bypass the need for interconnect patches, and a Federal Signal Smart Siren SS2000 panel. Most of these control heads and equipment have been packaged by Dunford's technical department into a hand-made, custom-designed console, also incorporating the PA mic, a clipboard, a gooseneck lamp, a dc-power outlet, a flashlight mount and a cup holder, as well as the weapons brackets. The videotape unit, radio and other gear is mounted in a custom box in the police cruiser's trunk. which also contains spike strips and emergency gear. [For more information on these installations, see Dunford's "Public Safety: '10-2'" columns in the March and April 2000 issues of MRT.]



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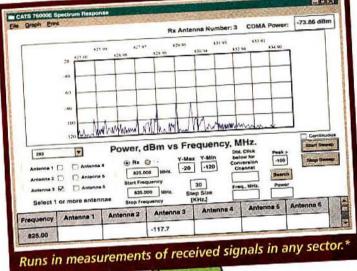
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On the street. Bussell reflects on this support, "One thing I will say, and you can put me on record for this: We have some of the finest dispatchers and personnel that I could ever ask for. ... These guys and gals, they work. It's nothing for them to work 12 or 14 hours in a day if they're [short-handed]. They're always running tags. They may get a little short with me at the end of the night because I'm running so many tags, and I usually try to lay off, then. And they'll diglike Kelly, when I ran [the kiosk suspect]. She said, 'Well, let me check another thing for you."

"She didn't have to do that," Bussell says, " I didn't ask her to She just does it. You can't ask for anything better than that."

"A lot of times, people will give the wrong information to the officer," Stancer says. "So you really have to dig. That's what's difficult, is there are so many avenues you can look at."

Stancer says he wants to work on increasing his speed in that area-he



Ofc. Bussell is encircled by electronic aids and radio gear.

is still in his probationary period. He started with the communications center in February. That's why he is wearing a dark-blue polo shirt and khaki pants. The other dispatchers wear standard-issue police uniforms.

Stigall is in charge of training other

dispatchers. Sixteen weeks of onthe-job training is required, plus two weeks in the classroom. Each traince is "plugged in" with an experienced dispatcher for four months. I wonder how they learn to listen to all the disembodied voices coming out of the speakers and through the headsets. So many people are talking at once, and these dispatchers and calltakers seem to hear it all (or at least what is important).

"You also have to keep your 'third ear' open to what's going on in the room," Davidson says. Call-takers and dispatchers will help each other out if possible, as they are listening to one another.

1535: An intrusion alarm call comes in. "Always dispatch those," Stigall says, "Calling 295 and 334, respond on Brinks intrusion alarm at [location] residence. The garage door,"

1536: Bussell, near the location, hears the intrusion call and drives over to support. Units 295 and 334 have the situation under control, and we hit the street again.

Continued on page 44

### ou Could

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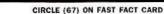
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# JOINING FORCES ...

### by Matthew Halverson

So, you're having trouble getting permission to build *one* new guyed tower? The local zoning commission has banded with those pesky NIMBYs to shut down your project, and they're deaf to the argument that a 480-foot tower can be made aesthetically pleasing? What do you do? For starters, you can dry your eyes and thank the frequency fairy that your problem is only 1/181st of the zoning nightmare that faced the Michigan State Police (MSP).

To replace its nearly 60-year-old state public safety communications system, and to take advantage of the 800MHz spectrum, the MSP joined forces with Motorola to design the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), the first statewide Project 25-compliant communications system—and they needed 181 new tower sites to do it.

Split up among four phases, the system is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2002. Phase I consists of Southeast Michigan and is already up and running. Phase II is made up of the southwest portion of the state and was completed in September 1999. In June, Phase III became the latest portion of the project to be completed (ahead of schedule), and it consists of the upper half of lower Michigan. The Upper Peninsula makes up Phase IV, scheduled to be online in Spring 2002.

The project, now 75% complete, represents a new breed of public safety communications system. With 181 sites—an increase of 100 towers from the original system—its sheer size is intimidating, yet dimensions alone cannot tell the whole story. With the upgrade to the new digital

system, any subscribing police department in Michigan can "dial up" any other subscriber throughout the state from its mobile units. That means Officer Jones in the Upper Peninsula and Officer Smith in the state capitol at Lansing can talk to each other as if they were only one street apart.

Whether the state had decided to build a communications system of this size or not, everyone involved agreed something needed to be done to update the antiquated system that was in place. MSP Capt. Tom Miller said that in addition to the "dead spots" that users were experiencing, replacement parts for the old system were becoming increasingly difficult to find, and only three of the original 81 towers were in compliance with Michigan OSHA standards.

"We couldn't maintain part of our infrastructure," Miller said, "So it had gotten to a critical stage."

Once it was decided that something needed to be done, the next question was, "What?" After enlisting the consulting services of Sachs/Freeman Associates in the mid-1980s, the state chose to construct a statewide system based on Project 25 standards, despite the fact that the set of standards had yet to be completed.



Contracting the project to an

outside vendor was the next step, and according to Miller, signing with Motorola was simply a matter of finding someone that could give the state what they needed.

"We chose (Motorola) because of their ability to meet the specs of the RFP," he said. "We had one other vendor, but they weren't able to meet the specifications."

The purpose and scope of the system has evolved gradually over the last 16 years. Originally conceived in 1984 with the intent to serve only the state police, it has now expanded to provide the department of corrections, the department of social services and the natural resources law enforcement division—not to mention any local police department that wishes to use it—with digital communications capability.

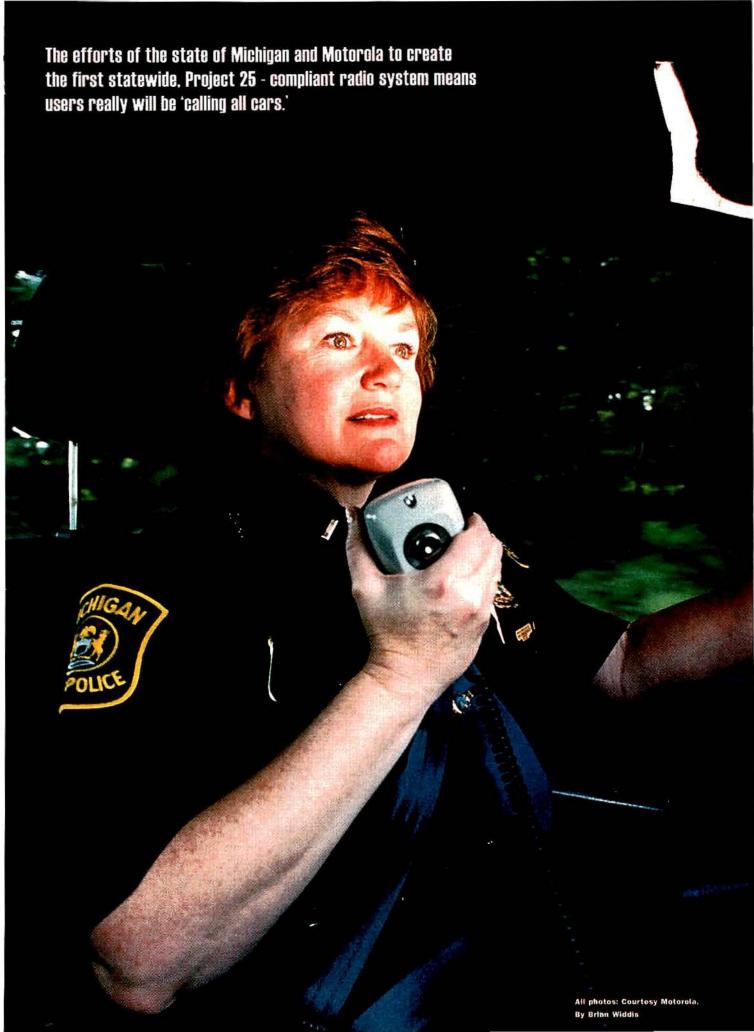
As the state saw the price for the new system rise, it also saw an opportunity to share out some of the cost.

"As the original studies came back and there was a realization of what it was going to cost to replace it, the idea then was that we would open it up, and the system would be made available to the other state agencies as well as local government," Miller said.

Miller was quick to point out, however, that the state was not interested in having the county police and sheriffs'



Halverson is associate editor



departments pay for the state's new toy. But with a price tag of more than \$187 million, any help was appreciated.

"The realization is that the cost of operating this system in large part will be borne by the state, and whatever local agencies we can put on the system will help, but it will never subsidize the entire cost of the system," he said. "That wasn't the goal. The goal of the system was to build a statewide communications system for public safety."

Joining the system is not cheap. The Motorola portable radios and mobile radio base units that work with the new technology run for close to \$3,000 each, and users must pay a one-time start up fee of \$250 per radio as well as a \$300-per-year charge for programming and maintenance costs. Joining the system has even been cost-prohibitive for some of the smaller local agencies throughout the state. Police in Wayne County have had to collect close to \$4 million through a surcharge levied on 9-1-1 systems in the area to afford to subscribe.

### Small town solution

However, Capt. James Caygill said the cost to join the system was well worth it for the Huron Township Police Department. Huron was in the market for a new system after deciding that its 20-year-old lowband system was in need of an upgrade. The state's offer to join the new statewide system contributed to Caygill's department's decision to subscribe.

Although the radios are costly, Caygill said that what a department pays for the radios, it makes up for by not having to build new towers. The state has estimated the cost of building a tower site at between \$200,000 and \$600,000. Huron Township needed only one new tower for its area, but that's one more than Caygill wanted to build. Subscribers to the state's system are not responsible for building new sites and are not charged for using the towers.

"In my opinion, 'Why do we want to reinvent the wheel?" Caygill said. "Not only that, but we, as a smaller agency than the state police, have the opportunity to be aboard something that has the expertise of the world behind it."

Motorola provides all of the necessary equipment and handles the programming of the system, and the company trained Huron's officers. Caygill said that having the assistance and security of Motorola's experienced staff has made the transition a relatively painless process.

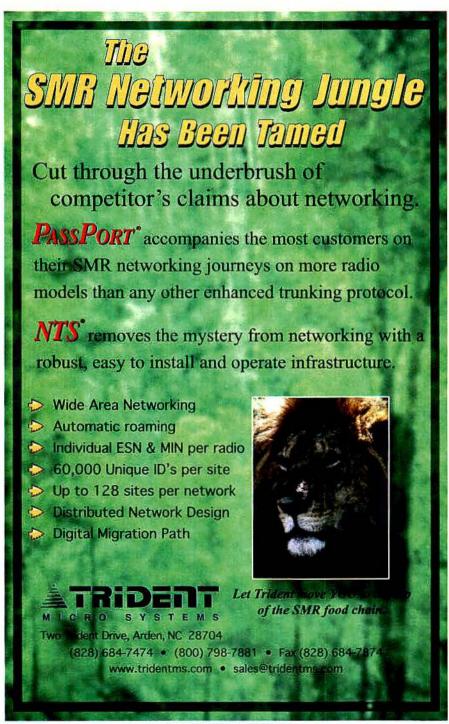
"Normally, when you put in something new like this, you expect to have a lot of problems," he said. "Now I know the state may have had some problems when they first went online, but when we went online, our people were trained and ready."

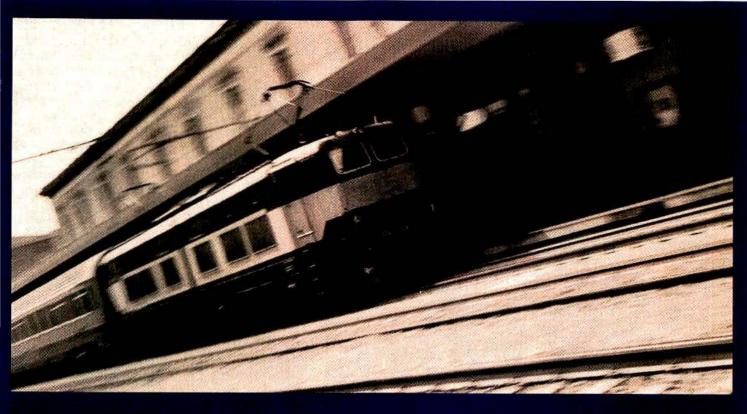
### NIMBY and Brer Rabbit

Foremost among the problems the state faced in installing the system was the siting of new towers. When building 181 new towers, *some* opposition from local zoning commissions is to be expected, but the state was ill-prepared for the hurdle it would face in completing the infrastructure construction.

"When we negotiated the contract, we were told by the state that the state is exempt from local zoning ordinances," Chuck Cousino, Motorola's project director assigned to the MPSCS, said. "The people from the state believed that. We got challenged on it. The state got challenged on it by a township and lost the challenge in court."

The suit in question that threatened to shut the project down was raised by the Addison Township of Oakland County in June 1996. The township claimed that placing a tower in the location stipulated by the specifications of the system would violate local ordinance restrictions on





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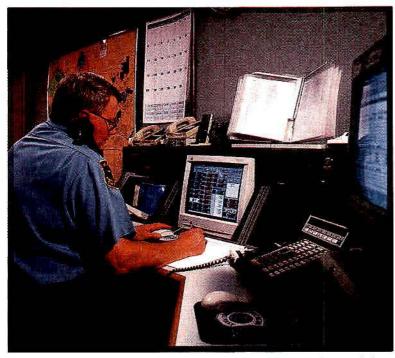


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An officer tests out the Michigan statewide system that was close to being scrapped over siting issues.

both location and tower height. The Oakland County Circuit Court granted the township an injunction that was upheld on appeal.

"As you might expect, this created a

huge concern on everybody's part, because without the exemption, it would be very difficult to build the system at all," Cousino said.

The roadblock would not last for long,

however. On behalf of the state police and Motorola, the state legislature enacted Public Act 538 in 1996, which overrules local zoning ordinances and eases the process of tower siting. Under the act, if a local zoning authority does not approve of the location that the state wishes to build on, it must offer an equivalent site within 30 days of notification. If an alternate site is not provided, the state may build on the original proposed site.

"It gives us a mechanism to move through the zoning process with local governments and not get hung up in a lot of public debate and discussions over whether a tower should be built," Miller

said. "If they don't want it there, the onus is on them to provide an alternative location within 30 days."

Cousino admits that zoning problems were the most challenging issue that

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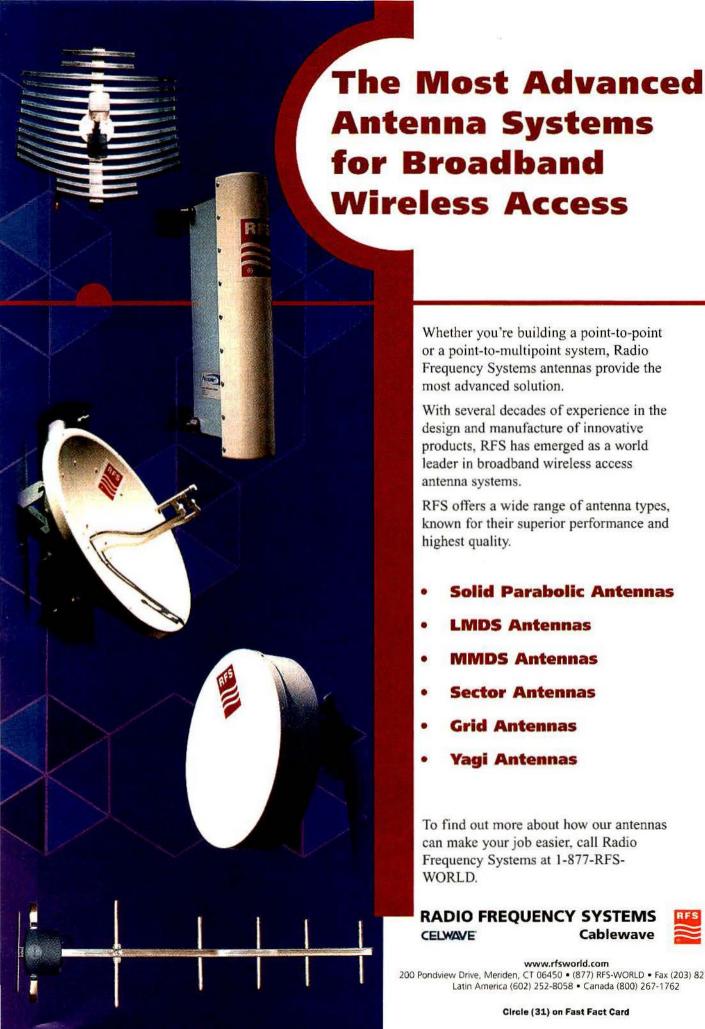


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Motorola and the state faced, and he was not surprised that reared its ugly head.

"It would be nice if every time an engineer said, 'Oh, I'd like a site at this coordinate' we could send somebody out and say, 'Look, there's a FOR SALE sign right there," he said. "Never do we get a piece of property where we point."

### Upgrades on the go

Siting issues have not been the only concern for the state police and Motorola. Not surprisingly for a project of this size, upgrades and renovations have already been necessary before the system has been completed. When the

project was originally contracted out to Motorola in 1994, the Project 25 standards had yet to be completed, but the contract stipulated that Motorola would conduct the necessary upgrades once the final specifications were determined. According to Miller, equipment upgrades are the most difficult part of the process, logistically.

"Logistics become a big issue," Miller said. "We saw that when we had to upgrade the first phase that wasn't built to the APCO 25 standard, and when we had to go back and do the upgrade, we had to actually touch all of the radios to upgrade them."

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There is no master switch to throw when conducting such an upgrade. In fact, more than 4,000 radios had to be "touched" as part of the Phase I upgrade. The process will begin again when the state finishes contract negotiations with Motorola to upgrade the current system to Motorola's new 6.0 platform for integrated voice and data.

"It's going to be significant—almost a 15% increase in the cost of this project—to do this upgrade," Miller said. "It's something we're trying to look at from a long-term planning standpoint. We're looking at building up a sort of revolving fund that would provide us the funding we would need to keep up with the technology upgrades that we'll need to keep the system as state-of-the-art as possible."

### A meeting of the minds

As problems have arisen throughout the build-out, Cousino said the most important thing that kept the project moving was the contract the two sides had signed. Issues and discrepancies were bound to come up, but with a contract that both sides could refer to, most problems were dealt with swiftly.

"The strength of investing the time upfront in a solid contract is probably the single biggest thing that got reinforced," Cousino said. "Because there's a tendency to say 'Let's get on with this so we can actually get started building.' You should never give in to that tendency."

In addition to the contract, Miller said that having executive sponsorship made the project run more smoothly. He admits that without the support of the governor's office and the state legislature, the system might never have been completed. Having the government's support made the ratification of the allimportant site acquisition act possible.

"We've been very fortunate here that we've had very strong support from our legislature and our executive office," Miller said. "That's really made this thing a success that we wouldn't have had if we hadn't gotten the sponsorship."

### Settling in

Although system upgrades will always be necessary to keep up with technological advances, Miller is confident that the state will not have to deal with zoning authorities for a long time to come. The system was built with the expectation that it would last for several decades.

"We believe from an infrastructure standpoint that these towers will be around a long, long time," Miller said.

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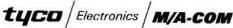


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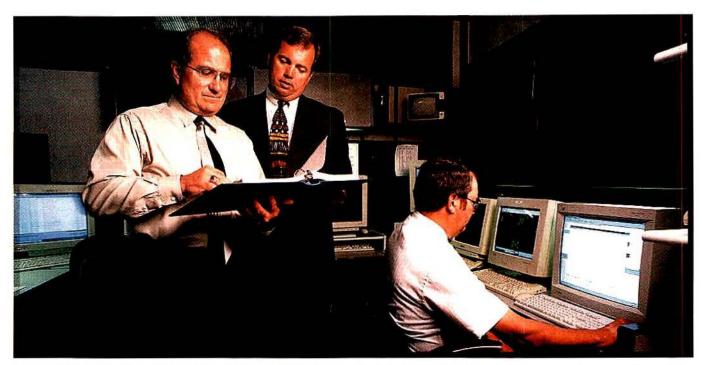
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Cousino (left) and Miller (right) say the relationship that MPS and Motorola formed was an integral part of making the project work.

"Those will be around for at least 40 years. The electronics component of it (I believe that the way technology is), we're going to have to look at upgrades periodically."

Cousino is even more optimistic.

"We've got hi-rod, solid-member, galvanized towers, Miller buildings that

have very, very strong specs and very aggressive specifications to them," he said. "They'll be around for 100 years."

Regardless of whether technological advances make the system obsolete, both sides believe that they have built the foundation for a positive working relationship suitable for addressing issues and concerns in the future.

"The relationship with the state is the thing we're most proud of," Cousino said. "The fact is, the state has been very accommodating, and we feel very good about the relationship we have with them. We get a hurdle, we find it, we sit down, we solve it and we move on."



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The Lenexa Communications Center has a dispatch position, a records management position and a call-taker position active on each shift.

### The longest day

continued from page 32

Lenexa is divided into four districts, with a car assigned to each district before the shift starts. When deciding what to dispatch, Stigall says, you start with the primary car. Any other car that goes along with it goes in the "assist field."

1548: It's almost afternoon rush "hour," the busiest time of the day for the communications center. I notice that each one of the three dispatchers is calm and collected. If the world fell down around them, they would remain just as calm, their voices steady and clear.

"335," Stigall says, "Respond to a non-injury accident, [location]. It's a blue Explorer and a blue Forerunner."

We hear dispatch send unit 335 to a non-injury accident, It prompts Bussell to comment on the route we're taking, which he characterizes as "the worst stretch of road in the city," with a deceptive grade and slick conditions during rains. "If there's one accident, you can count on three," he says. Street officers, it seems, are like the salesmen in *The Music Man:* "You've got to know the territory."

On the screen display, Stigall points out radio numbers of the cars and call types. He can also pull up "incidents." Each incident gets a number.

With rush hour approaching, we chat about traffic accident responses. Lenexa is bisected on a southwest to northeast axis, by interstate 1-35, which is a heavily traveled commuter route within the metro area. City police are generally the primary responders for any accidents on the interstate, and there is little or no interoperability with the Kansas

Highway Patrol (KHP). Any coordinating communications have to be relayed by Lenexa dispatch through a link to KHP headquarters nearly 180 miles to the west, in central Kansas, which then bounces the information back to area patrolmen. The patrol also essentially stands down at about 2300. "Any vehiculars after 11:30, until about 7:00 in the morning—that's all ours," Bussell says.

The accident situation is often confounded by "Good Samaritans" with cellphones, each with a "unique" description of where the accident has occurred, leaving dispatch to correctly sort out the location

"But, we get a lot of good 'drunks' [calls] from folks with cellphones. They'll follow them,' Bussell says.

1610: A 9-1-1 call has come in regarding a depressed person at a place of business. "Calling party said she was not suicidal, just wanted some professional help."

Unit 394 will answer the call.

### Lady in distress

1611: We're rolling again, this time to a local business where an employee is having a severe attack of depression. Although suicidal complications are ruled out, her co-workers feel official intervention is needed. We roll up in less than eight minutes, and Bussell enters the business. He is joined by back-up. The two officers counsel the woman. who appears elderly and disoriented, while I watch through the storefront. (I forget to hit the mic monitor switch, so I watch the scene in pantomime.) After a conciliatory conversation, the officers have dispatch summon a Lenexa Fire Department Emergency Medical Response team. Regular patrol officers have to request fire/EMS services through dispatch, although patrol division sergeant's cars are enabled for fireand-rescue and public works channels.

It becomes quiet again, so I ask Stigall about the flashing light on the console in front of me. They are testing the 350kW backup generator, like they do every Wednesday. Stigall says that the dispatchers can turn on the generator anytime and transfer the power load themselves. In fact, they will usually switch the power over if there is lightning in the area, instead of waiting for the power to go out. Davidson, who has just walked in, reassures us that the center relies on 45 minutes worth of batteries for backup, along with two UPS systems.

While Davidson is here, I ask him about the homemade CAD system again. "We took the workflow we did on paper and computerized it. We used to take one of those cards, the call-takers would answer the call and hold those cards with the calls, then pass them to the dispatcher." Davidson says that they have had the CAD program since 1985, and 9-1-1 since February 1983. They have been in this communications center for five years.

### Something new, something old ...

1755: We listen to radio traffic. Lenexa monitors the adjacent jurisdictions for incident awareness and because officers in this area have cross-jurisdictional arrest authority.

Bussell says he feels lucky not to encounter the coverage problems experienced by some large metropolitan systems: "I mean, this job is stressful. I have a ball coming to work every day, but that's just one less thing to worry about. I know if my portable doesn't work, it's probably because I was stupid and didn't put it on the charger, or I put it on incorrectly."

Officers are mindful of battery capabilities. "Today I turned in my DPU [portable] radio. It's a special radio, but I don't like it," Bussell says. "One thing is, the battery won't hold a charge for an eight-hour shift—well, maybe eight hours, but if I'm working 10 or 12 hours, it won't hold it. That irritates me."

What was nice about it, and the reason they gave it to DPU, Bussell says, was a scanning capability to track other jurisdictions. Although he says that feature is useful for officers such as the canine unit, which crosses jurisdictions frequently. Bussell finds the feature superfluous because he has a mobile scanner in the cruiser and a private scanner in his own car already. He also had trouble with accidental keying of the radio's mic because of seat belts or other encumbrances, resulting in an open mic.

"I said, 'Give me my old radio back. It works. Its reliable. I like it," Although the new radio was lighter, and it had a digital readout, performance was what mattered.

### Psych tests and psychics

and I realize that the only way we know it is daytime is via the security monitors mounted along the back of the room. Each workstation has adjustable lights, but the dispatchers keep them dimmed to reduce the glare on their screens. Eight monitors flash images of the different areas of the police department, including the detention centers, front lobby and entry to the building. The center sits in the basement of the police department, with six workstations and a small kitchen. The dispatchers share lockers with the officers down the hall.

Lenexa Communications has 15 employees, and they do have a hard time finding people to fill empty positions. Davidson cites not only the 1% to 2% unemployment rate as a reason, but also the hiring process. Eleven steps are involved, including a psychological exam and a polygraph test.

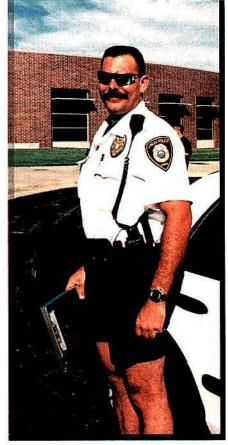
"Obviously, we have to know that the people that are in here are honest, trustworthy, reliable people. In just the time we've been sitting here, look at the amount of information they have access to, and the bottom line is not to be overly dramatic. But when someone calls 9-1-1, I'm not the one to decide what we're going to do. It is based, frankly, on their judgment," Davidson says.

He glances over at Lafary, a blondhaired, petite and mild-mannered woman at the middle workstation. "Kelly's one of those who reads minds over the phone. I don't know how she does it." Lafary has been taking calls for 18 years. With an average of 20,000 calls a month coming into the center, she has gained a lot of experience. Davidson continues. "It's just that all of a sudden something might not *feel* right or *sound* right about a call, and she just has that intuition. You can't train that."

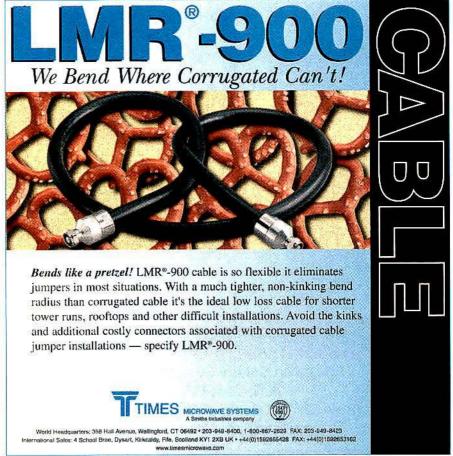
I ask about accents or foreign language. I think it would be challenging to try to understand some calls for help. They have a solution for that, though: the AT&T Language Line. The call-taker and caller will conference with this line, and the language will be interpreted. The line supports about 150 languages.

Every call has to be answered because you just don't know what is behind each one. That's the main, most important, policy of Lenexa Communications. I ask about other policies. "We have certain 'thou shalts' and 'thou shalt nots.' but for every one of those, you could probably think up a whole room full of exceptions to that." He says that they don't want to forget why they are there: "Do the job, answer the phones, take care of the people."

Davidson rises to leave. He has already put in a full day, while our shift is



Bussell, like all active-duty uniformed officers, carries a belt-clipped portable radio, usually a Motorola model HT-1000 or HT600/P200, with an epaulet mic. Officers also carry alphanumeric pagers.



not even half over. The usual shifts are 3-11, 11-7 and 7-3. The shift from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. is "60% of our business," according to Davidson. The schedule is made for each month, and employees sign up for the shift they want, by seniority.

Now, my assignment shifts. I join Stancer, who is still taking calls. I take my headset and plug into his workstation. Davidson warns me that we never know what is going to come through the line, and I agree to report discretely.

### Goose chases and chicken runs

1751: We return to the station. Bussell has been reassigned to undercover surveillance, so he will be leaving uniformed patrol duty for the rest of the night. Ofc. Brad Rechtfertig agrees to accept me as his ridealong, and I switch cruisers to join unit "336,"

Rechtfertig, in his mid-20s, is reddishhaired, ruddy, wiry and, like Bussell, loves being a cop. He has served six months with Lenexa, following about two-and-a-half years with the police department in nearby Roeland Park, KS. Although he prefers the traditional black uniform, he also prefers rock music from the dash FM radio while he works. This doesn't interfere with receiving

dispatches because the radio system automatically mutes the dash radio whenever there is communications traffic. Rechtfertig's cruiser is equipped identically to Bussell's unit, with the addition of a dash-mounted Silver Eagle traffic radar display in front of the steering wheel. His laptop remains open, and a sea-scene screensaver gurgles softly under the wash of radio activity.

1758: After about seven minutes to get acquainted, we get a dispatch to back up an attempt to secure a juvenile female runaway. A 17-year-old is suspected to be holed up at her boyfriend's family home, and dispatch advises that she has been sought previously and is likely to bolt out the back door. We park about a block away from the address, and officers 335 and 337 join Rechtfertig on foot as they maneuver themselves into strategic positions to intercept a possibly fleeing teenager.

1811: Three Lenexa units are working a runaway call. It comes through the radio that the officers are circling the house and setting up a perimeter where the runaway may be hiding.

The placid Stancer says, "You could actually get a footchase here. Virgel is 'preparing' himself. In a footchase, you have to know where everybody's at." In other words, Stigall has to follow everyone's movement through the radio.

An officer runs a tag of a car sitting at the house. "They want to get as much information as they can before they go in," says Stancer.

The officers coordinate their positions using their portable radios and epaulet mics. Communication only breaks once when one officer gets too near a metal garden shed. The house is apparently empty, but the boy's father arrives home and the officers' communication skills revert to written when they discover that he is deaf. Their inquiries must be scribbled on the handy pocket note pad.

After 20 minutes, the operation is canceled. No girl. Just a wild-goose chase.

1817: It's getting close to dinnertime, and Stigall talks about getting something to eat. The Lenexa dispatchers do not take breaks. They eat at their workstations while taking calls and dispatching. Things are starting to slow down now, though. Rush "hour" is almost over. I look at the security monitors-still bright outside. Shouldn't it be dark by now? No, it's only 6:17 p.m., and another call rings into Lenexa P.D.

"Communications," Stancer answers. The call is from a bondsman, "The bondsman is going to pick up one of his subjects; has to go out to Merriam; he

wants an officer to go with him to make contact," Stancer says to Stigall through the radio. The subject works at a fast food chicken chain and is supposedly at work now.

"I was thinking about going [there] tonight," Stigall says.

"Really? Maybe you ought to go right now-before they arrest him," Lafary suggests. So Stigall takes orders and heads out the door.

1842: Rechtfertig is called back to the station to pick up a bench warrant. We are headed south to Olathe, KS, where Rechtfertig is to arrest a man for non-appearance in court and to convey him to the county lockup. As we drive down, I ask about his interaction with his radio equipment. One criticism he has of standard uniform radios is the epaulet mic, which he says can flop and slide too much during foot pursuit. What he would prefer is an in-ear plug with a mouth-level boom mic.

1859: The arrestee offers no resistance, and compliantly allows himself to be handcuffed and transported to jail. Processing, though, takes some time.

2018: Back in town and patrolling freely, Rechtfertig encounters a motorist, truck hood up, stalled at an intersection. Pulling behind this apparently



innocuous scene, he still goes by the book, running a tag on the vehicle and setting his camera before he steps out to assist. I observe from my vantage point in the front seat how effective this tool is, taking in everything that transpires. Rechtfertig uses his front push bumper to move the vehicle out of the intersection, and the motorist takes it from there, using his own cellphone to get a tow. A five-minute assist from Officer Friendly.

Stigall returns shortly with threepiece chicken strip meals. He says he didn't see whom he thought was going to be arrested. The subject may have been in the back, or in the parking lot.

As the dispatchers eat dinner, we discuss the ergonomics of their furniture. "I like the stand-up consoles," Stigall says. "I like to raise the monitor to eye level."

The calls are coming in less often now, so Stigall takes the opportunity to clean up the work area, and Stancer and Lafary do some paperwork.

2025: I contact Chandler on my own cellphone. It's long past the end of our workday, and she's heading for home soon, but it's about "lunch" time for third watch. Rechtfertig turns down my offer of a free meal. Like the dispatchers, he prefers to stay in-service during his shift. "Lunch" is an orange from under the seat and bottled water from a local convenience store. While parked there and supping with one hand, his other is busily running the Versadex v17.1 software on his laptop, checking the out-ofstate tags on cars gassing up for possible ticket skips, a frequent occurrence in a state line region. A out-of-towner approaches, and it's Officer Friendly time again, giving driving directions.

### Energizer bunnies

2001: I walk out of the police department at 8 p.m., but the sun still shines. The dispatchers continue their noble work on the inside, communicating with police officers, citizens and each other, all at the same time. "We've got all this technology," Davidson has said. "Bottom line is—this job still entails us talking to each other."

2020: Rechtfertig patrols for a while, then pulls into an alley near a local hotel on the interstate that has been the site of prostitution incidents. I marvel at the young officer, who simultaneously fields my questions: watches and listens to passing traffic noise, as well as to his scanner and to his favorite FM station; keys-in his incident reports; and, I discover, has been running three tag checks while talking to me. I envy his faculties and aptitude. Maybe all those parents

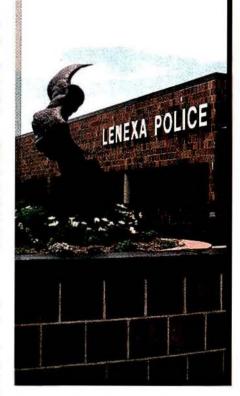
Home base: the Lenexa Police Department, attached to City Hall, is a five-year-old facility.

who complained about kids doing their homework while watching television or listening to music didn't realize we were breeding a generation of multiplesensory-input wunderkinds.

2105: I'm all-in for the day. Rechtfertig has two hours to go, and he suggests that I call it quits. "This is the time of night that the next call you get will keep you out until midnight," he jokes. He returns me to the station and I thank him for indulging us. As he drives off, I, like Sgt. Esterhaus on Hill Street Blues, I hope the young man will "be careful out there."

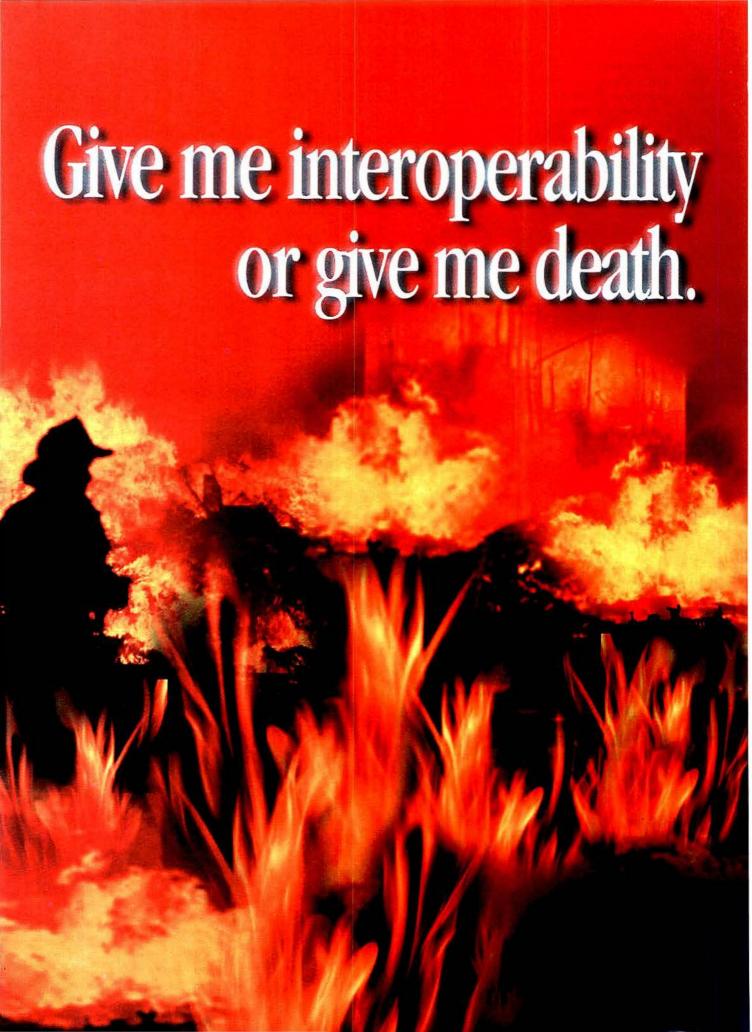
### The human factor

What did we learn today? Lenexa is blessed, compared to other mid-size cities, with top-of-the-line equipment. However, the success of public safety mobile radio communications is not measured by how much it costs, or how well it is supported and advanced by APCO, radio manufacturers, government officials, technicians or industry technical journals. It is measured by how well it serves three people: the victim/citizen requiring assistance, the PSAP operator/dispatcher who is the



lifeline, and the officer who renders that assistance. The other thing we observed is teamwork and personal excellence. The equipment only reaches its potential if it is put into the hands of people who can use it effectively.





# Sadly, the lack of radio interoperability costs lives.

Virginians, like Patrick Henry, have always known when it's time to draw the line. In 1775 Patrick Henry stood in a small Virginia church and uttered those famous words that helped change the course of the American Revolution.

Today a group of communications experts in Virginia, forced with a mounting radio challenge, have also said "enough." *No more* conciliation to those who would spurn shared networks in order to sell the public more equipment through



Patrick Henry

fragmented systems. *No more* appeasement of monopolistic practices. We're leading the charge for interoperability on behalf of our customers and those they protect. We know not what course others may take, but as for Com-Net Ericsson, give us interoperability or give us . . .

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Photo 1. The Danko hummer is just the ticket for fast reaction firefighting.

# Fire vehicle installation

Radio installations in specialty firefighting vehicles are challenging enough, but this one's a real hummer.

### By Donald Koehler

Every mobile installation carries some minimum requirements, but some installations require a bit more thought. Every installation requires planning and some time with the users to ensure that you meet their needs, that safety items are covered and that aesthetics are reasonable. This article describes some pit-



Photo 2. The engine compartment is not a good choice for mounting equipment.

falls to avoid using as an example a recent installation in a piece of special-purpose, fire-response equipment. Although most of this discussion is targeted toward police, fire and EMS vehicle installations, many of the principles apply for commercial fleet dipatch vehicles as well.

➤ Safe inflation — Passenger safety should

be your number-one priority. Examine the manufacturer's technical bulletins or contact the dealer to establish the air bag inflation zone. This is a zone to be kept free of equipment or mounts so the passive restraints (air bags) can deploy as designed. Anything placed within these zones poses a potential danger to the occupants of the vehicle. The airbag could deploy and strike equipment, thrusting it violently aside and into an occupant, with resultant injury. Or, worse, equipment within the zone could puncture the airbag and render it useless. Both alternatives are unacceptable.

► Heavy metal — Equipment mounts have become more problematic as vehicles have become lighter and smaller. Reinforcement plates for the underside of floor or firewall mounts should be considered when large arrays of equipment are to be mounted on a single pedestal. Even fairly thick aluminum can be roughly formed with a rubber mallet to provide a sturdy mounting surface following the contours of the underside of

the vehicle floorboards or the firewall. Some police patrol officers also insist that equipment be moveable so that they can quickly exit the vehicle from the curb-side door in an emergency. This type of mount should still have a positive lock to prevent loss of the equipment, or injury to occupants, if a sudden stop or collision should occur.

▶ Distributing the juice — Electrical safety is next on the list. I have always strongly recommended running positive and negative lines from the battery and fusing them at each end of the line. This is a bit more trouble and more expen-

Contributing editor Koehler has more than 30 years of experience in radio, telephony and computer electronics. He has been teaching part time at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, for the past four years. His email address is AFDEK1@uaa.alaska.edu.

The author thanks Engineer Albright and Firefighter Gliori, some of the professionals at the Anchorage Fire Department, Station 12, for access to the "Brush 2" equipment. They were literally "between fires" and were gracious enough to answer questions.

Photos used courtesy of and copyright by Tec Images Alaska. sive, but it allows greater safety and the option to bond the power line to prevent sneak circuits. Running power lines underfoot to the trunk requires protection from abrasion; running them through the overhead requires bracing to prevent sags. All controls should feed to a central point. This is the pay-off from your planning and discussion with the user. A central control point may be hard to achieve with multiple control heads, but it improves operator safety.

▶ A clean look — Aesthetics of equipment installation may seem a strange concept at first, but if you think about it, it makes sense. Fabricating a rack for mounting multiple control heads, for example, not only improves the "look" of the installation, it protects the equipment cables from damage. If you are lucky, all of the required equipment will be installed at one time, allowing for a single dc power run with fuses mounted and marked and control and power cables laced together and tagged at both ends. Not only does this look professional, it aids in any future troubleshooting or equipment repair.

### A humdinger of an installation

To demonstrate this point, Photos 1-6 show the integration of form and function in the Anchorage Fire Department's new "Brush 2" off-road firefighting vehicle. Based on an AM GENRAL HMV (humvee) from Danko (www.danko.com), this fire truck is designed to go off road to knock down urban brushfires. (If you have not been to Anchorage, you may be surprised at the amount of forestation within the city.) The vehicle is equipped with a Motorola trunked radio system, a cellphone and the standard siren/lightbar



Photo 4. Interior space is at a premium.



Photo 3. The lightbar and antenna are a clean install.

needed by emergency vehicles. The vehicle carries a crew of two—a firefighter and an engineer—so reliable communi-

cations is critical to crew safety.

Photo 2 on page 50 shows how the hood lifts forward to expose the engine, which is

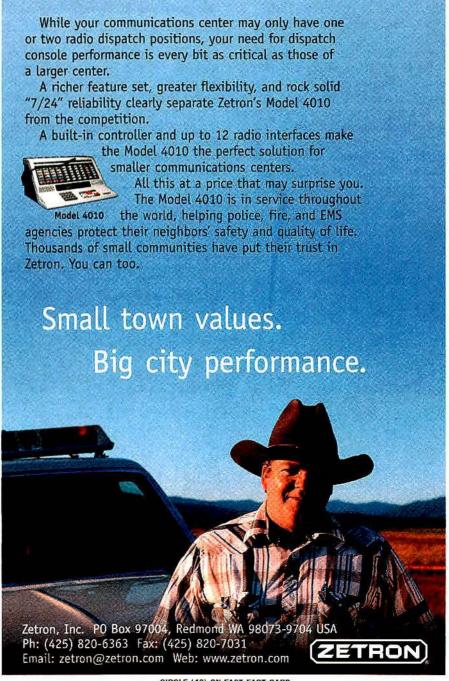




Photo 5. The engine compartment is relatively unprotected.

mounted partly in the crew compartment. The engine compartment is both open and relatively unprotected (Photo 5 above), so it makes a poor choice for mounting communications equipment. The engine mounting takes up considerable room, and with the battery container mounted right behind the engine, space is hard to find. To further complicate matters, the cab roof is low (no doubt a holdover from the military specification for the vehicle). While the design does aid the firefighters while offroad, it almost certainly rules out a roofmount radio or control panel. The areas behind or under the seats are poor choices for an easy mount as well.

The radio shop has done a good job in mounting the communications equipment where both crewpersons can operate the



Photo 6. The on-board, gasoline-powered pump can be a source of interference.

controls and still maintain visibility of the road. The power cable is routed under the cowling and mated up to the battery with nothing to snag or catch as the crew enters or exits the vehicle. Bonding is good, and necessary in this instance, because the truck is equipped with a 305-gallon water tank and small gasoline powered pump. The roof-mounted antenna and lightbar is

clean, leaving no cables to snag tree branches while off road.

Plan ahead, talk to the user and run power cables for both sides of the dc feed, with fuses on each end. Take the time to bundle and mark cables and fuses and document the installation, and the end result is a reliable, professional installation.



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# **Putting Project 25 to the test**

To reap the advantages of multiple sourcing under an open standard, public safety systems operators and technicians will require broader testing capabilities.

### By Bill Burrows

As the deployment of Project 25 systems gathers momentum, the requirement for system-specific test equipment is becoming apparent. Measurements that need to be made at the air interface during deployment

and operation of a Project 25 system require new measurement technology. Additionally, the open standard raises the issue of interoperability among equipment purchased from different sources. Interoperability problems can be minimized with appropriate test strategies.

### New testing challenges

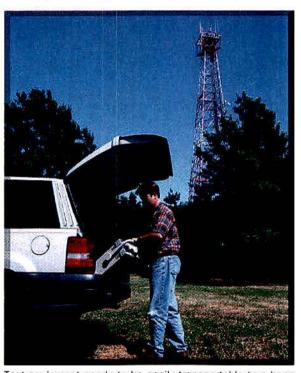
Operators and maintenance technicians are focusing considerable attention on the implications of the Project 25 standard for their support and maintenance programs. Because interoperability and maximization of radio spectrum efficiency are fundamental requirements, Phase I of Project 25 uses digital voice encoding to reduce the required bandwidth for speech transmission to 12.5kHz, while simultaneously maintaining backward compatibility and interoperation with the existing 25kHz analog FM systems. Supporting both

digital and analog testing, although common in the cellular world, is a new requirement in the public safety communications environment.

Traditional test strategies have primarily focused on the parametric performance of the radio terminal, where measurements such as power, frequency, modulation and sensitivity are the primary indicators of performance. The open-standard concept adopted for Project 25 introduces some new variables into the testing equation that relate to the interoperability of equipment sourced from multiple

manufacturers supporting the standard.

The Project 25 standard, like its analog predecessors, is based on a frequency-domain multiple-access (FDMA) system, and it produces continuous signals when the radio is keyed. Therefore, some of the more complex measurement techniques required for time-domain multiple-



Test equipment needs to be easily transportable to a base station site by a lone technician.

access (TDMA) systems, such as Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA), are simplified. The significant differences occur in modulation and sensitivity measurements.

### A new approach

The modulation selected for Project 25 is C4FM, which is a modified, four-level, frequency-shift keying (FSK), with a raised cosine filter for minimizing intersymbol interference. The modulation can be measured using conventional techniques as long as standard test signals are used. These signals are designed

to provide a data stream of all low-deviation symbols or all high-deviation symbols, thus enabling the high 61.8kHz and the low 60.6kHz deviations to be measured. This is not practical on a working transmitter because the data content cannot be controlled without removing the transmitter from service, so a new measurement technique has to be used. This

requires sampling the transmitted signal and demodulating the data. The demodulated data are used to compute the instantaneous deviation from a "perfect" modulator. This deviation is then compared with the actual measured deviation value, and a root-mean-square (RMS) error magnitude is calculated. This error is expressed as a percentage from the perfect signal. A typical transmitter test screen from a radio test set is shown in Figure 1 on page 57.

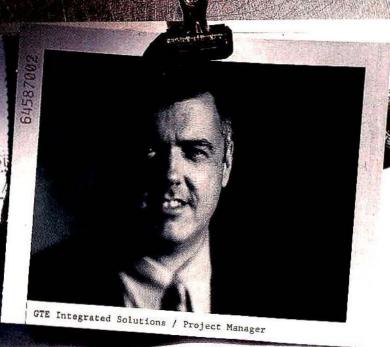
### Bit-error rate measurement

Receiver sensitivity for digital systems is measured by determining the bit-error rate (BER), which is defined as the number of bits received in error expressed as a percentage of the total number of bits received. This measurement is not quite as simple as it sounds because it depends on where the measurement is taken within a given radio system. Of

the total throughput of a Project 25 channel of 9,600bps, only 4,400bps are associated with the digital voice. Of the remainder, 2,800bps are used for error correction of the voice signal and 2,400bps are devoted to signaling overhead. The question arises: Do you measure the errors before or after correction? Obviously, it is the corrected performance that is important to the user because this determines the intelligibility of the speech. To overcome the uncertainty of

Burrows, an electrical engineer, is director of product marketing for IFR Systems, Wichita, KS.



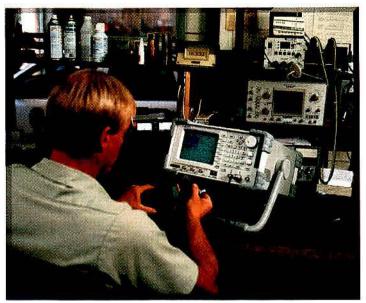


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Project 25 adoption will require the capability to test equipment from a variety of radio equipment manufacturers.

this measurement, a test signal with a known bit pattern is defined. A BER compares the received signal with the expected test signal. Nominal BER for a Project 25 receiver is 5%.

An alternative measurement of receiver sensitivity is a recorded speech pattern, which gives an audible indication. Because of the large

amount of error correction used, its failure point occurs abruptly, so sensitivity measurements are accurate.

Additional measurements are specified, such as adjacent channel power and emission spectrum, to ensure that Project 25 equipment does not interfere with, degrade OF the perfor-

mance of, equipment on co-existent analog channels.

Although these measurements are important to overall system integrity, they are not commonly used for routine system maintenance. They also require performance levels that are only obtainable with specialized test equipment.

### How interoperability impacts testing

Although the open standard creates many benefits for the user in the long term (i.e., reduced equipment costs and greater customer choice), it does introduce another uncertainty: Will the equipment from different suppliers work together seamlessly?

The standardization process is designed to create a standard that defines all aspects of the system operation. It is possible however, that equipment suppliers will interpret the standard in differing ways. This may result in a terminal from one manufacturer and a repeater from another not interoperating as expected. Additionally, as new features become available on a system and the equipment is updated, the need to reassess interoperability may occur. This will gain in significance as the number of compliant-equipment manufacturers increases.

Two test strategies can be used to determine interoperability. The first method is to test each new equipment type with all of the existing equipment used in the network. Obviously, not all of the terminal features on all of the user channels can be tested because the testing time would escalate rapidly. If the number of units in a system is large, even basic interoperability tests would

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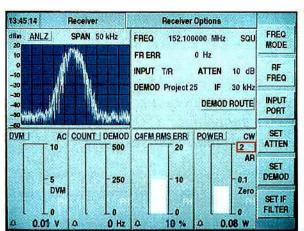
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INPUT ANT ATTEN 10 dB	PATTERN VOICE SOURCE FGEN1 1000 Hz SINAD 0 dB DIST 0 %	INPUT
DEV 0 kHz DIST 0 %  UPLINK DATA  MFID DD TGID DDDD	DOWNLINK DATA  MFID DD TGID DDDD	SET ATTEN
NAC 280 DUID 0 Header Data	NAC DDD LCO 00 Group Voice Chan User	OUTPUT LEVEL
P 0 SF 0 MFID DD EMG 0 TGID DDDD SID DDDDDD STATUS 3 Inbound Channel Idle	P 0 SF 0 MFID DD EMG 0 TGID DDD SID DDDDDD STATUS 3 Inbound Channel Idle	SET PATTERN

Figure 1 (far left). A typical transmitter test screen from an IFR Systems model 2975 radio test set. Figure 2. (near left). A system parameter measurement of the screen.

require a tremendous number of combinations. This approach ensures that the equipment will interoperate, but it does not guarantee adherence to the standard—nor does it necessarily indicate which equipment is non-compliant.

An alternative approach is to check all equipment against a reference system or device. If it were practical to use only one reference system for all tests, then this system would itself become the standard. Typically, a radio test set could be used as the reference, but, again, this is based on one manufacturer's interpretation of the standard. Also, the number of functions that can be tested is limited by the reference system capability. This method significantly reduces the number of tests required, but interoperability will only be implied—not guaranteed.

### Test equipment for a robust standard

A radio test set provides the tools required to maintain radio systems. Traditionally, these instruments have provided sufficient control of the deviceunder-test (DUT) for parametric measurements to be made in a normal system environment. Project 25's emphasis on interoperability raises the capability threshold in two significant ways. First, it requires the test set to provide a comprehensive simulation of the radio system and to analyze the data it receives back from the DUT. A system parameter measurement screen is shown in Figure 2 above. Second, the user must be enabled to configure the test set to accurately represent the system being operated.

### Reaping the benefits of a standard

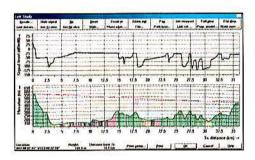
Adoption of Project 25 will require radio systems operators and maintenance technicians to revisit their testing capabilities. Accurate testing of equipment offered by a variety of competing manufacturers will enable public safety users to use the open standard to its fullest advantage.



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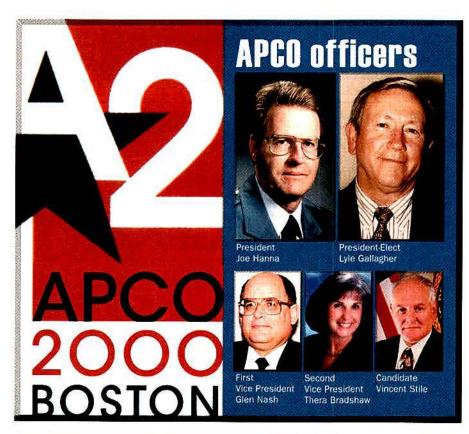




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The 66th Annual APCO Conference, to be held in Boston Aug. 13-17, will cover topics such as TTY training, the new 700MHz band and applications of the TETRA standard to public safety. Attendees will be able to visit more than 150 exhibitor booths at the Hynes Convention Center and attend more than 100 sessions.



# Stile is a 'shoo-in' for second vice president

dency is hitting its stride, Vincent lenges that come my way." Stile will walk unopposed into the ofand will be sworn in on Aug. 17.

Although Stile said he is somecandidate running for the office, he of trunked radio, conventional, miis a large undertaking.

difficult," Stile said. "It's a four-year lice Department. process to go through the system."

Although he says he is "learning Stile is optimistic. the ropes" as he goes, Stile is confident his background will help him ist," he said, "We can build upon fulfill his duties.

APCO," he said. "My background tional ideals." has been in technical areas, so I

Just as the race for the U.S. presi-believe I can take on any chal-

As a member of APCO since 1969, fice of second vice president at he has served on the APCO Regula-APCO's 66th Annual Conference & tory Advisory Committee, and he was Exposition. He is running uncontested president of APCO's Atlantic Chapter from 1995 to 1996.

In his professional life, Stile has what surprised that he is the only coordinated the planning and design acknowledged that being an officer crowave and mobile data systems as police radio communications direc-"The large commitment of time is tor for the Suffolk County (NY) Po-

As for his future with APCO,

"I consider myself a traditionalthe organization's past successes "Experience plays a good part in and bring them forward with tradi-

-MH

### **General Information**

### Awards program

The annual APCO International Awards Program will take place during the opening session on Monday, Aug. 14. The program salutes the Public Safety Telecommunicator, Communications Center Director, Line Supervisor and Technician of the Year.

### APCO pavilion

APCO will sponsor a pavilion in the exhibit hall again this year. If you would like more information on APCO International, stop by.

### Audio tapes

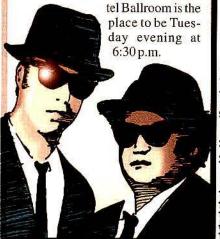
Conference sessions will be audio taped. Only those presenters who have given their consent will have their seminars taped. Audio tapes of the seminars and sessions may be purchased.

# Straight from Joliet **Correctional Facility**

Jake and Elwood Blues are back. and their new "mission from God" is to entertain APCO 2000 attendees.

MANAPCO Night will feature The Jake and Elwood Blues Review along with the Fabulous Blues Brothers Tribute Band: "Tremors," featuring "The Earthquake Horns."

The Sheraton Boston Ho-



# Conference agenda

Monday, Aug. 14

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. AFC Advisor Refresher Training

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. New Attendee Orientation

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Opening General Session/Featured Speaker

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Opening Luncheon/Keynote Address & Featured Speakers

Noon – 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Booth Selection Appointments - 2001 1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. FCC Regulatory Panel

Tuesday, Aug. 15

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. First General Business Session

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. AFC Advisor Refresher Training

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Booth Selection Appointments - 2001

10:15 a.m. Grand Opening of Exhibits

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Exclusive Exhibit Hours

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Exhibits Open

10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Voting - Second VP (Exhibit Hall A)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. AFC Advisor Luncheon

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. APCO Meet the Press

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. MANAPCO Night

Wednesday, Aug. 16

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Chapter Representatives/Breakfast Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. AFC Advisor Refresher Training

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Booth Selection Appointments - 2001

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Chapter Presidents/Secretaries Workshop

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Exclusive Exhibit Hours

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Exhibits Open

Noon - 2:00 p.m. Past Presidents/Life Members Luncheon

Noon - 2:00 p.m. Chapter Presidents/Secretaries Luncheon

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Second General Business Session

4:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Second General Business Session

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Second VP Reception

Thursday, Aug. 17

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. - Board of Officers Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. AFC Advisor Refresher Training

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Corporate Advisory Committee Meeting

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Closing Reception

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Closing Banquet/Awards

Friday, Aug. 18

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 3rd Annual APCO Golf Tournament

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# Intergovernmental planning creates public safety 'radio utility'

Spotsylvania County, VA, applies infrastructure planning to create an 800MHz radio system with long-term benefits.

### By John Brown and Frederick G. Griffin, P.E.

In 1995, the need was first identified for a new county radio system to serve Spotsylvania County, VA, and other interested entities. There was the "traditional" need within public safety (fire, law enforcement and EMS) and public services (inspectors, administrators and utilities). The broader view indicated a potential need from schools and neigh-

boring jurisdictions as well. The future radio system could, in some sense, be viewed as a "radio utility in the sky," serving users on a prorated, cost-share basis. The decision was made to establish an 8 0 0 M H z trunked radio system because of available frequencies.



Figure 1. Spotsylvania County, VA.

### The locale

Spotsylvania County, comprising 407 square miles in eastern Virginia, is midway along a 100-mile line between Washington and the Virginia state capitol at Richmond. About 65% of the county lies in Virginia's Piedmont physiographic province, and about 35% lies in the Coastal Plain. Elevations range from sea level to 540 feet.

Spotsylvania is a growing place, therefore it needed to plan ahead to continue to provide service to its residents. According to *Virginia Town and Country* magazine (April 1996), the county experienced a 98% growth rate from 1990 to 1994.

### Intergovernmental liaison

In August 1996, the county hosted an informal workshop for all of the contiguous governmental bodies, namely the counties of Louisa, Stafford, King George, Caroline, Orange and the city of Fredericksburg, VA. The result was a pooling of the previously assigned National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee's (NPSPAC) frequencies for Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg. These would be added to the five channels already licensed to the county. Mutual-aid

interconnections would be established for the other counties.

# Coverage requirements

The area design of a radio system can, in some cases, lead to confusion or unrealistic expectations. Because of the priority nature of hardware and early commitments to infrastructure suppli-

ers, mistakes are easily made in the planning process. To avoid this, Spot-sylvania County created a user committee to define the vision and expectations of the system over the life cycle of the embedded investment. The committee also addressed the coverage requirements by agreeing on a future land use map to envision public safety needs for in-building portable radio use.

### System architecture

As a result of the coordination meeting and the coverage requirements, a two-site, simulcast, trunked system was specified. The design of any trunked radio system has to address system failure scenarios. In this case, two scenarios were thoroughly discussed:

▶ Antenna failure or tower failure — The user committee members agreed that in this unlikely event, they could operate countywide service from one site using mobiles. They would take whatever a single site would provide for portable coverage. Neither site alone will provide satisfactory portable radio, in-building coverage for the entire county.

► Fiber failure — The communications center, midway between the two sites, is connected to the microwave hub via a fiber-optic cable. Loss of this cable was the second failure scenario. A twohop microwave system was required to connect the sites to the hub and then to the communications center. To guard against fiber-optic cable failure, all of the simulcast common equipment was placed in the microwave hub shelter. In the unlikely event of a fiber failure, countywide services would be maintained. The communications center would continue to provide dispatch services using control stations installed for that purpose. Figure 2 on page 61 depicts the system architecture.

### Other communications needs

Spotsylvania County also lies within the Lake Anna Nuclear Power Generation Plant evacuation area. The evacuation plan calls for the use of the county school buses. This required a communications link with the school bus system. (In the Commonwealth of Virginia, school systems are independent from the county administration.) At the time of the system inception and design, the

Brown is system manager for Spotsylvania County, VA. Griffin, a member of MRT's editorial advisory board, is president of Frederick G. Griffin, P.C., Lynchburg, VA.

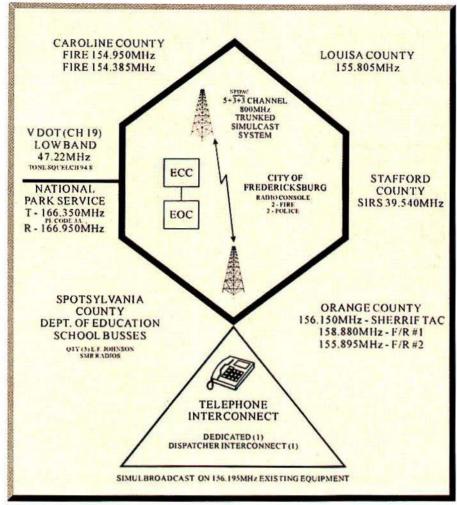


Figure 2. System architecture.

school system was using commercial SMR service for communications with school buses. As time has passed, SMR costs have escalated. This triggered the plan to migrate the school system's bus communications to the radio utility, thus providing another cost sharer.

### RF channel usage

The pooled spectrum was assigned as shown in Table 1, below. By the system mapping, countywide mobile-only talk groups will first pick channel group 2 and overflow into the high-power channels of channel group 1. The control channels are restricted to use only channel group 1. For countywide public safety portable radio use, channel group 1 will be selected first. This would overflow to channel group 2. All use for Fredericksburg or the northern county service area will have channel group 3 is the first choice, overflowing

to group 1 and then to group 2.

### Coverage criteria

This is a mixed-spectrum system. The total system uses both the old high-power spectrum and the NPSPAC spectrum. The old band is limited only by height/power regulations. The NPSPAC spectrum is controlled by a power limitation based on service area. The system was designed and specified for the portable coverage provided by the high-power channels. The NPSPAC channels were contracted for the equipment specifications. The lesser requirements for mobile coverage were preferred to the NPSPAC channels by the system map.

### Adding a new user

As the system was being built, a regional jail was being built in Stafford County, to the north. The regional jail has two off-premise communications

NORTH SITE	SOUTH SITE	CHANNEL NO.	DESIGNATOR
5 Spotsylvania channels	5 Spotsylvania channels	220, 260, 300, 340, 380	Group 1
3 Spotsylvania channels	3 Spotsylvania channels	610, 646, 813	Group 2
3 Fredericksburg channels		689, 723, 759	Group 2

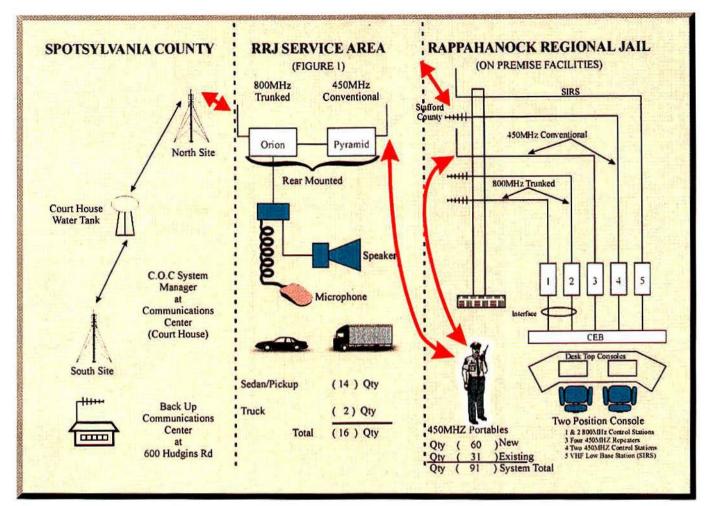


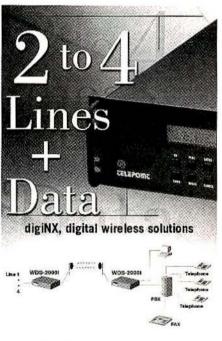


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Figure 3. System configuration.

needs: work release and liaison. It was desired that on-premises officers use the 450MHz band because the Stafford County sheriff's department uses it. In case of jail disturbances, all officers wanted to be in the same band. Offpremise activity required communications into the counties of Stafford, King George, Spotsylvania Fredericksburg. A cost-value determination had to be made by the regional jail on how to cover such a large area for light, but critical, use. Because of the in-buildcoverage requirements ing Spotsylvania County, there is an extended mobile coverage beyond the county boundaries. The result was to use the radio utility, which provided mobile coverage for its service areas. The regional jail benefitted from this mobile coverage and the use of crossband repeaters.

The system configuration is shown in Figure 3 above. Two trunked control stations were installed for reliability and for direct communications to the communications center, in case of a regional event.

### Implementation cost savings

Most complex systems of this type are purchased on a turnkey basis. Us-

ing county employees for some of the work (if the county is willing to accept the responsibility), can save money. (Contractors pass through mark-up.) In this case, site work and grading was performed by the public works department. Shelters were accepted at the factory, then transported and installed by the county.

Site acquisition is always an independent cost. In this case, towers were constructed on county-owned property (two landfills). The benefit was threefold. First, there was minimum visual clutter. Second, costs were lower. Third, the towers were oversized to accept additional tenants for a future revenue stream. The county has elected to construct its own tenant shelters, therefore becoming the site manager and thus developing an enterprise activity.

### Benefits to all

This system is a benchmark of intergovernmental cooperative planning and resource use among several different entities. The administration and elected officials of Spotsylvania County have taken the long view to benefit all.

# AMTA works with SiteSafe to coordinate ATA frequency

The American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) is trying its hand at frequency coordination, in addition to getting involved in the upcoming 700MHz guard band auction by offering services through a Web site. Whether AMTA will attempt to become a guard band manager remains to be seen, however.

AMTA is assuming frequency coordination responsibilities for the American Trucking Association (ATA). AMTA has also entered into an agreement with SiteSafe, Arlington, VA, and its subsidiary Biby Engineering Services to provide this coordination and other engineering services.

The agreement between ATA and AMTA will shift coordination responsibilities on an interim basis. The two associations plan to file with the FCC for permanent transfer of ATA's certification as a frequency advisory committee.

AMTA and SiteSafe will also offer a variety of engineering services through a Web site, guardbandmanager.com. These services, along with FCC rules and auction procedures, will be posted on the site to assist participants in the FCC's 700MHz guard band auction, which will be held Sept. 6, 2000. The site will also feature information on other system development services available through SiteSafe.

"SiteSafe is delighted to be associated with AMTA. The online frequency

coordination service from our partnership with AMTA will be equal to or superior to that of other coordination services," said Wesley McGee, president of SiteSafe.



The new services will provide coordination processing and information to clients to help make business decisions. Analyses of FCC license applications as well as electronic filing through AMTA's Web site will also be offered.

# Nextel Communications faces possible racial, sexual discrimination suits

(WirelessClick) - As of June 20, more than 300 current and former Nextel Communications employees were accusing Nextel of racial and sexual discrimination and planned to file 25 lawsuits against the company with the Equal Employment and Opportunity Commission, The New York Times reported.

Citing lawyers representing the employees, the Times said 25 lawsuits would be filed against Nextel on behalf of workers in Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee. The lawyers also planned on filing an additional 302 complaints from workers in other states at a rate of 50 per week until all have entered the courts, according to the Times. The allegations were raised by about 2% of Nextel's 15,000-person workforce.

The lawyers from Leeds, Morelli & Brown said they planned to seek millions of dollar in damages from Nextel, topping Texaco's \$176 million racial bias settlement in 1996, according to Reuters.

In a copy of one of the complaints released to Reuters, a Hispanic male employee alleged his white supervisors called him "gang banger," "spic" and "thug." The employee contended he went on disability for several weeks due to emotional trauma and depression after less-experienced white coworkers received promotions or transfers.

Nextel issued a statement on June 20, saying that the company could not comment on allegations until the complaints were filed before the EEOC.

"Nextel cannot comment on any

specific allegations until all the relevant facts are gathered and assessed, and although we have repeatedly requested the law firm of Leeds, Morelli & Brown to provide us with information regarding these claims, we are awaiting receipt of the complaints ...," the statement read. "We will conduct a thorough investigation of those allegations once we have received the information we need

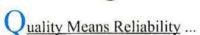
The statement further said that Nextel had repeatedly tried to cooperate with the lawyers on the case, but Leeds,

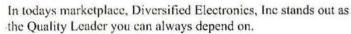
Morelli & Brown had demanded Nextel pay "outrageous" legal fees while refusing to disclose any information about the complaints.

The lawyers told the Times that they intended to seek the EEOC's permission to file suit against the company under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and also plan on seeking class-action status for their clients. The lawyers added that they planned to ask the court to require Nextel to adopt sensitivity training and diversity programs.

—Kevin Fitchard

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### A.C. Simmonds & Sons sold to DCS Electronics

Plans by Simmonds Capital Ltd. (SCL) to sell its A.C. Simmonds & Sons manufacturer's stocking representative division to senior managers of its SCL Electronics subsidiary, employees of the division and other investors, have fallen through. Instead, SCL is selling its division in two parts and has accepted an offer for the division's industrial electronics components distribution business.

The buyer, DCS Electronics, will acquire the A.C. Simmonds & Sons trade

name, assume outstanding sales contract responsibilities and purchase any of the division's remaining industrial product inventory on a consignment basis. DCS Electronics expects to retain the division's most experienced employees. The purchase price will be paid by a five-year secured promissory note and cash as the inventory is sold.

DCS Electronics Ltd. is a manufacturers' representative in Ajax, Ontario (Toronto) with offices in Vancouver, Edmonton, Ottawa, Montreal and

Halifax. DCS Electronics is owned by David C. Simmonds and his son, Paul T. Simmonds. David Simmonds is the grandson of A.C. Simmonds and the son of L. Claude Simmonds. He was president of A. C. Simmonds & Sons Ltd. until 1994 when he began DCS Electronics. DCS Electronics represents several lines formerly represented by A. C. Simmonds & Sons Ltd., including Mallory and Guardian. Together, A. C. Simmonds & Sons Ltd. and DCS Electronics have represented these manufacturers for 70 years.

Referring to the earlier planned sale of the entire division, David's brother, John Simmonds, SCL's chief executive, said, "As we progressed, it became apparent that the employee buyout offer was not going to be able to be properly financed."

The difficulty led to the decision to sell parts of the business separately. John Simmonds said that discussions are continuing with several potential purchasers of Evolution Audio as a distinct business unit. It is the last of SCL's operating businesses.

SCL is selling its operations to repay bank debt and to focus on investments and merchant banking. SCL's investments include interactive gaming technology focused on the North American horse racing market, Internet service sites focused on home products and home service, and wireless communications. The company has its headquarters in Willowdale, Ontario (Toronto).-DB



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# NSA marks 60th in KC

KANSAS CITY, MO - An exhibition of the latest technologies to support law enforcement and a broad-based seminar program highlighted the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) 60th annual conference here, June 17-21.

Seminar topics that touched on communications issues included federal revenue funding, alarm administration and radio interoperabilty in cases such as the Columbine incident in Colorado.

Radio industry and ancillary products exhibitors included E. F. Johnson, Motorola, Racal, Vision Software, Global Dispatch Technology, Itronix, Cerulean, Fibrebond, Positron, and TeleStatus.

Sheriff Thomas N. Faust of Arlington County, VA, became the new executive director of NSA on July 17. Faust brings to NSA over 23 years of criminal justice and law enforcement experience. He is a past president of the American Jail Association. -D.K.

# **News Notes**

Plant Equipment (PEI), Salt Lake City, has signed agreements with Cerulean Technology and Motorola to expand its E9-1-1 capabilities. Cerulean has agreed to market and re-sell PEI's Orion mapping applications while working with PEI to Integrate Cerulean's Packetcluster with PEI's E9-1-1 applications. According to Cerulean's vice president of marketing, David Rosi, "With this agreement, public safety agencies can expedite the purchase and implementation of fully integrated mapping and mobile applications, resulting in more efficient and responsive emergency personnel."

PEI's agreement with Motorola will allow for the integration of PEI's call handling and report writing software into Motorola's Centracom Elite dispatch center. "As the market moves toward a more integrated product model, this solution will provide a seamless integration of telephone, radio and other equipment," Tim Fuller, president of PEI, said.

HTE, Lake Mary, FL, has agreed to provide the Royal Bahamas Police Force with its CAD400 dispatch, E9-1-1 police interface and Pager Connect applications, among others. "HTE's highly integrated applications and state-of-the-art technology will help the Royal Bahamas Police Force effectively combat crime, while impoving efficiency throughout the agency," Brian Heafy, HTE's vice president of public safety and justice, said.

And "down under," Zetron, Redmond, WA, has accquired the ACOM Business Unit from Plessey Asia Pacific. The new acquisition will be run in Brisbane, Australia, under its new name, Zetron Australasia, as a wholly owned subsidiary of Zetron.

You may not trust your Congressman, but now he can trust his power company. **Dataradio**, Atlanta, has been awarded a contract for an eight-site, 900MHz mobile data network for Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO), which serves, among others, the District of Columbia.

We've heard of bootlegging movies, but radios? **Motorola**, Schaumburg, IL, has settled its civil lawsuit for copyright and trademark infringement against International Cellular Telephone in Federal Court in Miami. "These radios were not meant for the U.S. market, and any consumer who purchased one would not be getting what he or she expected," **Wayne Grimm**, Motorola vice president of distribution, said.

The APCO Institute, in conjunction with Jackson State University, is developing the first online degree program for public safety communications. Starting in September 2000, the program will give those in the profession the opportunity to earn an associate's degree via the World Wide Web. Bachelor's and master's degree programs will follow. No word yet on plans for the development of online dorm life.

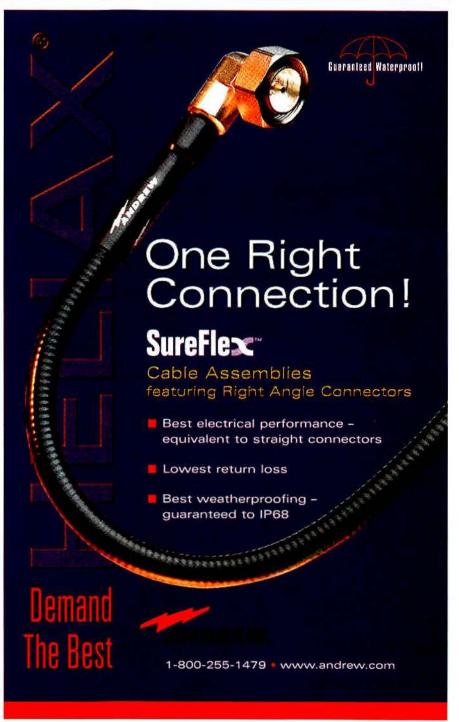
# Com-Net Ericsson wins Florida radio project

Com-Net Ericsson Critical Radio Systems, Lynchburg, VA, has been busy in June, creating a major alliance, acquiring a data systems company and winning a major state contract.

The state of Florida Joint Task Force has awarded the Florida Satewide Radio Communications Project to Com-Net Ericsson, creating a public-private partnership for critical communications. The system, to be owned and operated by the company, will provide communications for state agencies.

Com-Net had also acquired TransTech System, Miami, as of June 16. TransTech serves as a data systems consultant and integrator of public safety, utility and public transit. TransTech will be assimilated into Com-Net Ericsson's new data systems function.

Com-Net formed a strategic alliance with Orbacom Systems at the beginning of June to market Orbacom's TDM series consoles and to provide a Provoice and EDACS interface to existing TDM customers.



# Relm Wireless seeks payment, wins order, withdraws Midland offer

Part of Relm Wireless' conversion from what Richard K. Laird, the company's president, has described as "mini-conglomerate" into a focused radio communications equipment manufacturing, sales and distribution company hit a snag on June 16 when the current owner of one of Relm's former businesses defaulted on a principal payment.

The former Relm subsidiary, a paper manufacturing business, did not pay the scheduled \$400,000 of a \$1.6 million outstanding principal balance on a note. Relm has accelerated the note and has

demanded the full balance. Although the default will adversely affect Relm's cash flow, a statement from the company said that it can fund working capital requirements from operations and a revolving line of credit.

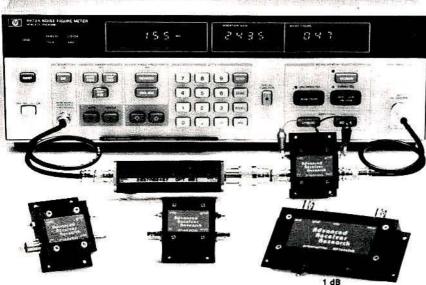
A month earlier, Relm had announced that it received a \$1.9 million order under an existing contract from the US Army. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2000 and continue through the first quarter of 2001.

Early in the year, Relm acquired sales

and distribution rights to the Uniden private radio products and contracted Uniden America to continue their manufacture. At about the same time, the company announced plans to purchase inventory, tooling and intellectual property rights for FM two-way radio products owned by the Midland International subsidiary of Simmonds Capital Ltd. (SCL), Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, and housed at Hitachi Denshi facilities in Japan. In late June, Relm withdrew its offer, stating that the company needed to focus on building its core land mobile radio wireless business before considering any additional acquisitions.

SCL Chairman John Simmonds said, "As a significant shareholder of Relm, we understand their management's immediate focus on achieving profitability through stabilizing their current wireless business. At SCL, we have already identified alternate opportunities to deploy our wireless assets and the Midland International intellectual property."

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450-460, 460-470

450-460, 460-470

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# **FCC Notes**

### Lower-power plan accepted

In a Public Notice issued June 29. the FCC accepted the Land Mobile Communication Council's modified lowpower consensus plan. Accordingly, the FCC will license only low-power operations on specified 12.5kHz offset frequencies in the 450MHz-470MHz band. Each frequency coordinator must maintain a current listing of frequencies designated for low power and make it available to the public upon request.

Fourteen channels have been designated as low-power for the public safety pool and 90 channels have been designated as low-power for the industrial/ business pool.

### **New regulatory postings**

John Borkowski has been named an assistant division chief for the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Borkowski has served as chief of the policy and rules branch of the division since 1997.

William D. Lane has been named chief technologist of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Lane is former chief scientist with Femme Comp. Prior to that position, he was responsible for the Joint Tactical Radio System Program of the U.S. Army. Lane was a colonel with the Army Signal Corps and was deputy head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the U.S. Military Academy, He is a senior member of the Institute for **Electrical and Electronics Engineers** 

# **Mobile radios**

# Mobile radios serve professional industry

The CDM Professional Radio series of mobiles from Motorola is



designed for the transportation, utility and construction industries. This series is the mobile companion to the HT series of professional radios. The radios feature talk-group capability to allow communications exclusively with designated groups of work-

ers and discreet emergency signaling. They also incorporate features associated with cellular and landline telephones, such as caller ID, paging and text-message exchange. The CDM1550-LS operates on any UHF LTR trunking system, which gives users a wide calling area, fast channel access and privacy. Accessories such as visor-mounted microphones provide hands-free operation for users who cannot easily reach their radios, while speakers increase volume for noisy environments.

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Mobile radio features compact design

Kenwood Communications' TK-6110 is a 70W, 32-channel VHF lowband mobile radio. The compact design complements the Kenwood publicservice TK-190 portable and TK-690 mobiles. The radio features priority scan, eight-character alphanumeric LCD, programmable front-panel keys, internal speaker, mechanical volume knob, flash ROM memory, PC programming and PC tuning. Designed by and for fire departments, utilities and transportation agencies, the radio meets MIL-STD 810C, D & E specifications. The integrated heatsink/die-cast chassis affords a

compact, low-profile design. QT/DQT CTCSS tone/digital coded squelch. two-tone/DTMF decode and operatorselectable tone are standard.

CIRCLE (352) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Mobile radios offer 40W output power

The Panther 300M mobile radio from Com-Net Ericsson Critical Radio Systems provides conventional communications. The radio features a 40W power output and an optional external speaker that produces 10W of audio for noisy environments. The Panther series offers the ability to transfer personalities radio-to-radio using Copycat technol-

ogy. End-users will not need to return their radios to the shop for "personality" changes. The radios can be programmed with a set of functions that can be transferred to other radios. The radio operates on FCC refarmed frequencies and meets MIL-STD 810E for drop, shock and vibration.

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## Radio complies with Project 25 standard

King Communications' KMR-25 series includes a Project 25-compatible digital radio. Radios operate at VHF and UHF frequency ranges in-cluding 136MHz-174MHz. 403MHz-470MHz. 450MHz-

512MHz and 806MHz-870MHz. The radios can also operate on conventional Smartnet and Smartzone systems. They



feature 256 channels, and the dimensions are 2.1"  $\times$  7.15"  $\times$  8.3". The voice digital mode includes voice coding of IMBE 4.4kbps and a frame resynch interval of 180msec. Accessories include a 12W external speaker, re-

mote-mount conversion kit, spare control head kit and DTMF microphone.

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# READERS' CHOICE

Of the new products in the January 2000 issue, this one generated the biggest reader response. For more information on this product, circle the corresponding Fast Fact number on the card found in the back of this issue, and mail the card to us.

# Headset integrates UHF radio, transmitter

a UHF radio transmitter and receiver integrated into one

headset. The headset can be operated on one frequency or on two frequencies with 10channel capability between 433MHz and 470MHz. It can also be programmed for users' existing frequencies and systems. The transmitter is activated

by a push-to-talk button or by vox for hands-free communication. Different versions are available,

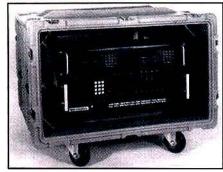
The TC917 from CeoTronics is including additional ASR (ambient sound reception), with a helmet attachment, as a one-way

> communications system with one transmitter and several receivers. as a lightweight headset with external transceiver unit or in connection with interfaces to cable-bound intercom systems. An intrinsically safe version for

use in areas with explosion hazard is available.

CIRCLE (500) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Interconnect provides cross-band operation



The TRP-1000 transportable radio interconnect system from JPS Communications provides communications interoperability among HF, VHF lowband and highband, UHF, 800MHz, trunking talk groups and encrypted networks. The system is packaged in one or more transportable cases that are designed to withstand extreme weather, and it includes multiple radios prewired to JPS Communications' ACU-1000 intelligent interconnect unit.

CIRCLE (401) ON FAST FACT CARD

## TRANSMITTER LOCATION



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# **Batteries support** XTS-3000 radios

Multiplier's new line of rechargeable replacement batteries



are designed for the Motorola XTS-3000 radio. Models M8294, M8923, M8923H and M8923HX are each rated at 7.5V. The M8294 is a NiCd battery with 1,700mAh capacity. The M8923. M8923H and M8923HX are NiMH batteries with 2,100mAh,

2,700mAh and 4,000mAh capacities, respectively. Multiplier's Sure-grip surface is available on each model.

CIRCLE (402) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Laptop computer offers Pentium III



The Rocky II from Amrel is a ruggedized notebook computer certified under MIL-STD 810E, MIL-STD 461C and IP54 standards and offers a Pentium III 500MHz-650MHz processor. The processor allows for realtime MPEG-2 video encoding and editing. The computer's open architecture allows for future upgrades. The system is equipped with 256MB memory and a 10G hard drive.

CIRCLE (403) ON FAST FACT CARD

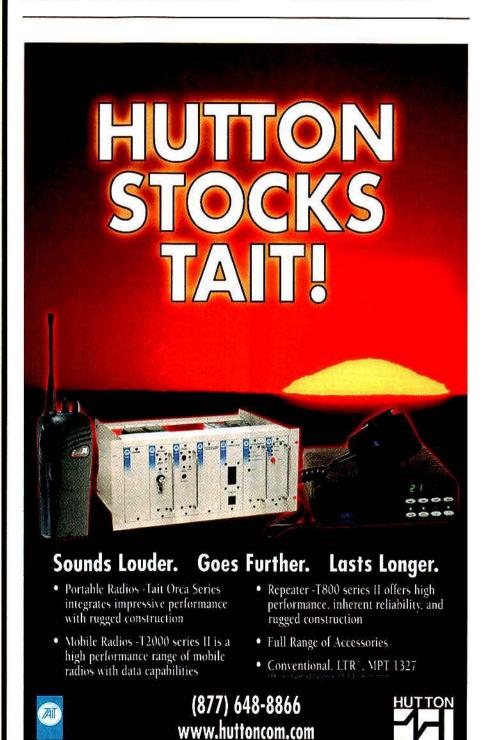
## TNC Connectors match low-loss coaxial cables



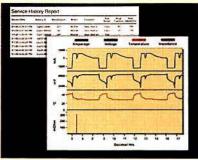
The EZ-400-TM and EZ-600-TM non-solder TNC male connectors from

Times Microwave Systems are designed for the company's LMR-400 and LMR-600 flexible, low-loss, coaxial cables. The connectors have knurled coupling nuts and crimp-style outercontact attachment rings and are designed to operate at frequencies as high as 6GHz. Solderless EZ connectors are also available for most LMR cable sizes covering type N, 7/16 DIN and reversible-polarity TNC interfaces.

CIRCLE (404) ON FAST FACT CARD



# Maintenance program tracks battery life



Batteryshop 3.0 from Cadex Electronics is a battery management and maintenance program that runs on Windows 95, 98 and NT and works with the Cadex C7000 battery analyzer. The program's service options include impedance measurement, priming and reconditioning. Point-and-click technology allows selection of specific models from a database of as many as 2,000 batteries. The analyzer can then be configured to the correct service parameters. Custom programs allow simulated load, self-discharge and full life-cycle testing.

CIRCLE (405) ON FAST FACT CARD

# YOU CHALLENGED US.

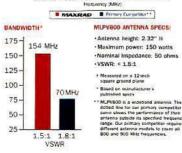
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# **Controller eliminates** bottleneck delays



The Life Line 100 9-1-1 controller from Positron sports a non-blocking design that ensures all calls can be processed simultaneously. The Life Line 100 offers distributed microprocessor architecture that allows each module to operate under its own control. Built-in, redundant, hot standby modules ensure uninterrupted service, and a modular design allows growth to 104 trunks and 144 positions with interfaces to tandem or direct trunks. Manual ALI request gives call-takers access to ALI information based on manual input of telephone numbers. The controller offers multiple, single-button, voice and data transfers and is configurable for both standard CAMA and enhanced MF trunk signals.

CIRCLE (406) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Antennas offer 40dB front-to-back ratios

Decibel Products extends its db Director series with the db Maxfill and

db Maxgain antennas. The series offers 40dB frontto-back ratio and several choices of electrical downtilt and variable downtilt models. Standard pipemount or optional wall-mount, azimuth-adjustment and downtilt brackets are available. When used together. these optional mounting brackets allow simultaneous tilt and swivel. The an-



tennas do not have rivets, screw connections or sliding metal-to-metal contacts in the main current path, which eliminates potential IM sources.

CIRCLE (407) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Connectors meet 15.203 regulations



Reverse-polarity connectors and adapters from RF Connectors meet FCC Part 15.203 regulations for non-standard co-axial connector interface for application compliance. Reverse-polarity products offered include RF-1005-C, N male crimp for RG-58/U; RP-1106-C, BNC male crimp for RG-58/U; and RP-3000-1C, SMA male crimp for RG-58/U.

CIRCLE (408) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Recorder uses LAN, WAN, and PSTN

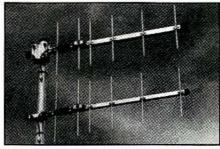


Racal Recorders' Wordnet series 2 digital communications recorder uses LAN, WAN and PSTN networks to deliver remote replay, management and alarms based on industrystandard SNMP. The recorder offers on-line storage capacity of 20,000 hours of DAT built into the unit. Wordnet includes incident number tagging for recordings and can be provided with an E9-1-1 ANI/ALI tagging system and full remote access to expedite responses to emergencies. The recorder offers a desktop console facility that allows dispatchers instant access to the last message received at the touch of a button.

CIRCLE (409) ON FAST FACT CARD

### Heavy-duty yagi antennas endure radial ice

Astron Antenna's new line of rugged yagi antennas are derived from the company's commercial grade designs and feature a 1" square, heavywalled tube for added durability in harsh environments, ¼" aluminum rod elements that will stand up to radial ice, and Eversealed feeds to maintain peak performance. The antennas have a VHF range of 138MHz-250MHz and a trunking and cellular range of 806MHz-896MHz. They range from two-element antennas with 4dBd of



gain to 15-element yagis with more than 13dBd of gain.

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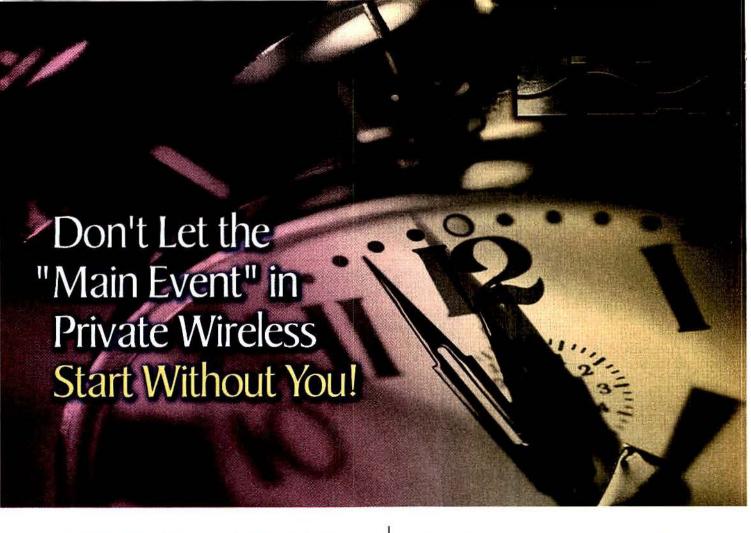


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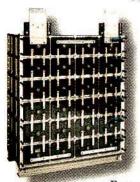
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# SLA batteries offer vent flame arrestor

Panasonic's MSE series of valve-regulated, lead-acid batteries are designed for telecommunications applications and are



fully frontaccessible. The batteries do not require watering, and they draw a low float current. MSE batteries have a cover-to-jar heat seal and a safety vent with built-in flame arrestor.

Batteries are available in 24V, 48V and 480V configurations with capacities of as much as 5,750Ah in parallel strings. The models in the MSE series are rated from 150Ah to 1,440Ah at the eight-hour rate.

CIRCLE (411) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Software supports TDMA development

IFR Systems' teleservices software module version 4.4 supports operators and developers of TDMA systems. The software module is available for the IFR 1900-4 and the 1900-5 radio test platforms. It allows designers and operators to simulate broadcast short-message services, enabling them to develop enhanced messaging services for ANSI-136 digital mobile phones.

CIRCLE (412) ON FAST FACT CARD

# Repeater operates in several modes



The KTR-25 from King Communications is a portable tactical repeater with 256-channel capacity. The repeater offers an alphanumeric display and is capable of operating in analog, Smartnet II, Smartzone and Project 25 trunking modes. It can operate as a UHF repeater or as a UHF link with a VHF link, or it can be used as two independent UHF radios and an independent VHF radio.

CIRCLE (413) ON FAST FACT CARD

### Headset combats high-noise environments

Motorola's noise-canceling headsets are designed for two-way communications in high-noise environments. The dual-muff headsets are available in headband or hardhat-mount styles and offer noise reduction quality of 22dB(A). Two microphones, included on the outside of the earcups, reproduce ambient sound back into the headsets. Harmful sounds are suppressed to a safe level, and low sounds are amplified as much as five times the original level.

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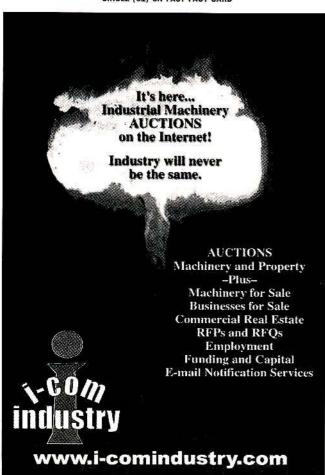
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### PEOPLE









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Jessip

Changes at Wood & Douglas, Baughurst, United Kingdom:

Martin Farrow departs Yokogawa Marex Technology, Cowes, Isle of Wight, as marketing manager to join Wood & Douglas as business development manager. Rachael Penfold leaves Radio Frequency Investigation, Basingstoke, Hampshire, as development manager, to join the company as broadcast product manager.

Promotions at Sabre Communications, Sioux City, IA:

Rolli Sexton moves up from inside sales manager to national sales manager. Sarah Urick, sales manager, advances to marketing manager. David B. Jessip moves up from director of sales and marketing to the position of vice president of sales.

Reimer Nagel, research and development manager for Radio Frequency Systems, Marlboro, NJ, accepts appointment to senior vice president.

**J. Michael Gearon**, executive vice president of American Tower, Boston, advances to the position of president.

William F. Schwartz, retail and advertising manager for the Washington Post, moves to the position of marketing manager at Metrocall, Alexandria, VA.

Mike S. Zafirovski, president of GE Lighting, replaces James A. Norling as president of the personal communications sector at Motorola, Schaumburg, IL.

Michele C. Farquhar, a partner in the law firm of Hogan & Hartson, succeeds Paul B. Najarian as president of the Land Mobile Communications Council.

Allen Groh, director of international trade & regulatory compliance for Ericsson, Stockholm, Sweden, assumes the position of chairman of the TIA's technical regulatory issues committee.

**Steven M. Nielsen**, vice president and general manager of Nextlink-Washington, McLean, VA, advances to chief financial officer of Independent Wireless One.

Changes at JBro Batteries, Lisle, IL:

Donald Riley rejoins the company as vice president-distribution sales. Alan ElShafei, electronic battery engineer for TDI Batteries, joins the organization as vice president-engineering

Harlan Plumley, chief financial officer of Marcam Solutions, Irvine, CA, joins Lightbridge, Burlington, MA, as chief financial officer.

Arkady Shkolnik, North American sales director for VLSI/Philips Semiconductors, San Jose, CA, advances to vice president of sales for Widcomm, San Diego.

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City Utilities is a progressive, multi-service municipal utility (including Telecommunications Services) serving the community of Springfield, Missouri. Springfield is located in the heart of Ozarks lake country, offers an excellent family environment, numerous recreational opportunities, a low cost-of-living, and is the primary trade center for southwest Missouri and a four-state area.

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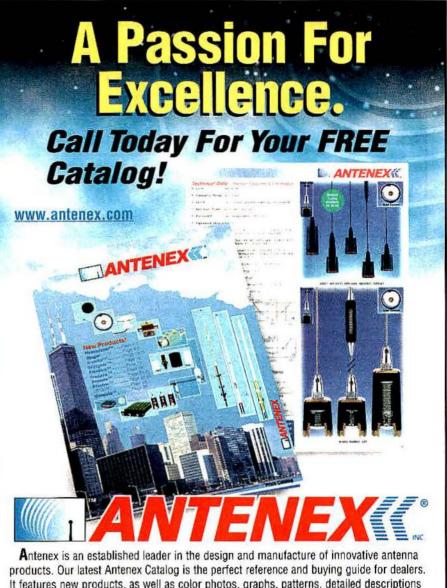
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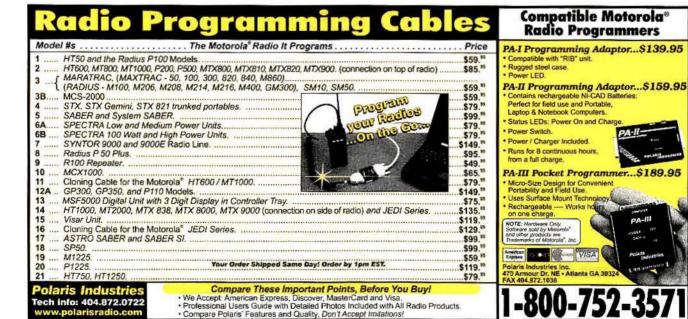
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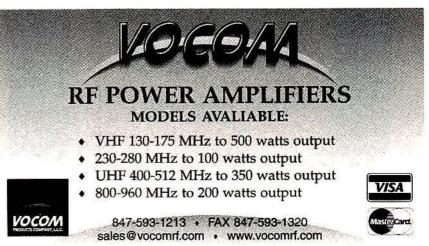
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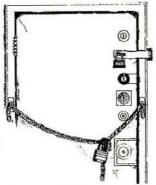


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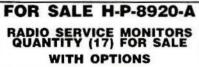
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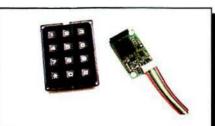
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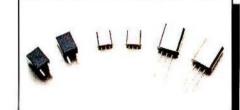
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